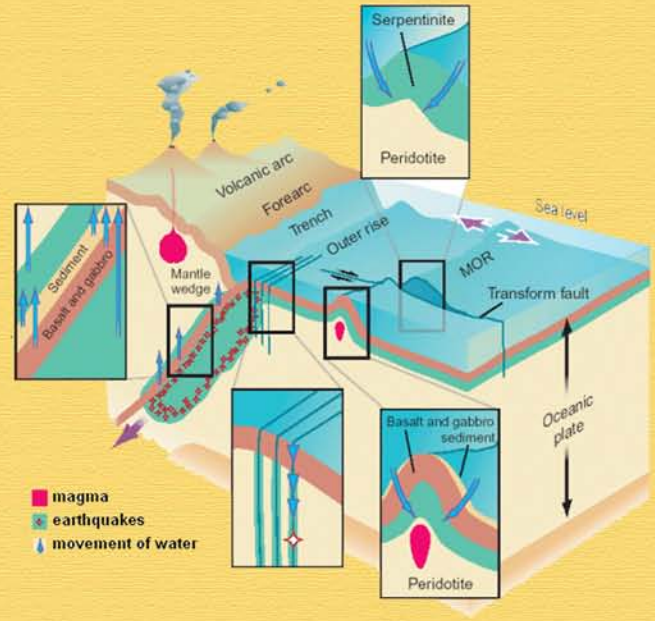
Serpentinite is largely associated with the Jurassic Franciscan formation of California.



Serpentinite has travelled all the way from the sea-floor spreading center and was subducted along with the Farallon tectonic plate under the North American plate. Later on the flat sheets of serpentinite were exposed due to an extensive faulting.

How can we recognize serpentinite?

The rock has a distinct gren color, however its palette may range from dark green to brown to yellow. The rock is often shot through with the veins of white asbestos. Serpentinite tends to be soft, and have a greasy or silky feel, especially on smooth flat surfaces; cut surfaces have a highly polished waxed sleekness to them. Luster tends to be dull to waxy.

RESISTANT GREEN AND BLACK SERPENTINITE. SLICKENSIDED (POLISHED) "KNOBS" TAKEN FROM A SHEARED MATRIX.

BOHEMIAN HIGHWAY, SONOMA COUNTY.

Would you like to know more about California's geological past?

Join us on a tour around California! We will show you a lot of geological sights of California's largest outcrops of serpentinite - a rock that played an important part in the formation of our beautiful state.

Ready to begin?