

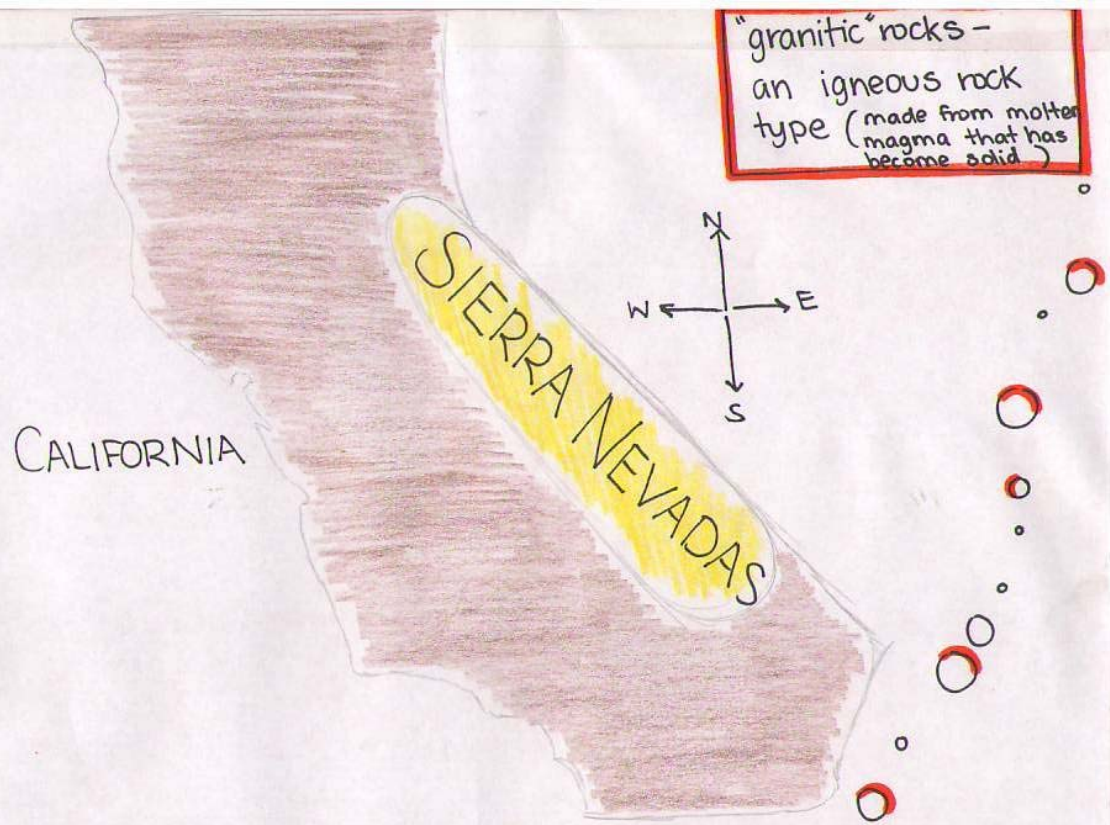
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EXPLORING
THE

SIERRA NEVADAS



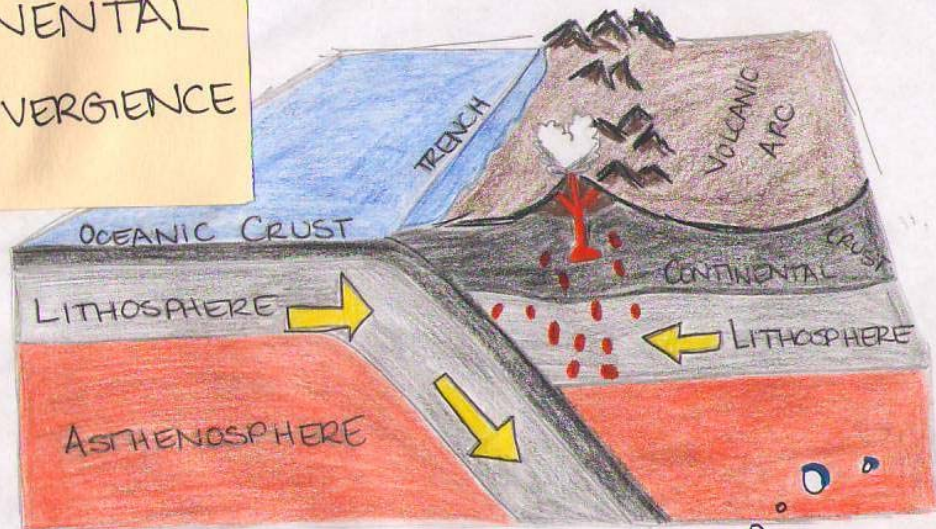
LEANNA REYES



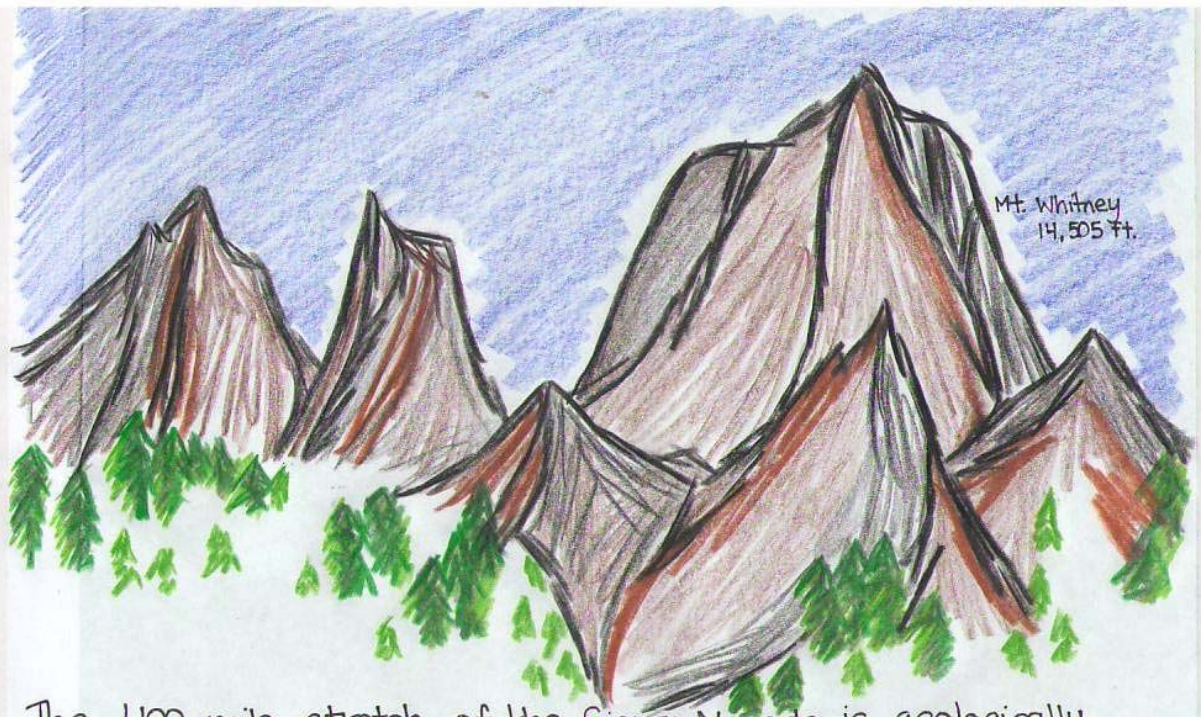
The Sierra Nevada mountain range lies along the Western edge of the United States. It is formed from granitic rocks that existed during the Mesozoic Era (think **DINOSAURS**)!

OCEANIC- CONTINENTAL CONVERGENCE

"subducting plates" -
when two plates
are moving toward
each other, the less
dense plate sinks



The Sierra Nevada mountains were formed between 120 and 50 **MILLION** years ago, due to subducting plates caused by a convergent plate boundary (called the Pacific Plate).



The 400-mile stretch of the Sierra Nevada is geologically interesting for many reasons. It features Lake Tahoe (191 square miles), Hetch Hetchy Valley, Yosemite Valley, Kings Canyon, Tehipite Valley, Kern Canyon, Mount Whitney, Sequoia National Park, and several other historical and geological "landmarks".

Preserving the Sierra Nevada

ISSUES AFFECTING THE MOUNTAIN RANGE:

- Clear-Cutting - as of January 2010 there is a **pending** lawsuit regarding 5,000 acres across the Sierras.

tree
logging

- Cattle-grazing - treatments have major ecological effects on the wetlands of the Sierra Nevada foothills.
- Mercury - high concentrations in 4 Sierra Nevada forest sites.
- Littering - ^{improperly} disposed trash affects soil nutrient levels once it decomposes, and negatively impacts many plant species.
- Water pollutions - air pollution contributes to water quality in the Sierras. This includes other pollutants such as viruses and protozoa, that can be harmful if ingested.