

## Formation of Stone Mountain



The energy and force from the Earth's interior slowly put the pre-continent of Africa and North America on a collision course.



As they continued to come together, ocean islands smashed into the North American continent.



The continents converged and eventually collided about 300 million years ago. The steady force of the two colliding masses buckled and fractured the Earth, creating the Appalachian Mountain chain to the west.



The extreme pressure and heat unleashed from the collision created melted rock or pooling magma below the Earth's surface. Among the hundreds of magma pools along the Appalachians, one magma pool had the distinction of becoming the future Stone Mountain.



After a few million years of cooling, Stone Mountain solidified eight to ten miles below the Earth's surface.



Stone Mountain granite is more resistant to erosion than the surrounding countryside. For 285 million years, the eight to ten miles of land above the mountain wore away, leaving Stone Mountain standing almost 800 feet high.