## The Fascinating Geology of Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming

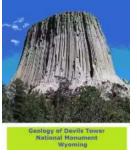


Located in northeastern Wyoming, Devils Tower National Monument is a breathtaking sight that has captivated visitors for generations. Rising majestically from the surrounding landscape, this geological wonder offers an intriguing glimpse into the past. Let's explore the fascinating geology of Devils Tower.

#### **A Unique Formation**

Devils Tower is an igneous intrusion made up of igneous rock. It is not your typical mountain or rock formation. What makes it unique is its sheer vertical walls, symmetrical shape, and its solitary presence in the middle of the plains.

#### **Geology of Devils Tower National Monument**



**Wyoming** by Iris Chang(Kindle Edition)

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Language	: English
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Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
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Geologists estimate that Devils Tower formed around 50 million years ago during the Eocene period. The tower is composed of hexagonal columns that are roughly five to seven sides each, resembling the shape of gigantic organ pipes stacked on top of one another.

Scientists believe that Devils Tower was formed by the cooling and solidification of molten rock that was forced up into the Earth's crust. As the rock cooled, it contracted and cracked, creating the stunning columns we see today.

#### Legend and Lure

Devils Tower has long been considered sacred by Native American tribes. The Lakota people, in particular, have a deep spiritual connection with the monument. According to their legend, several young girls were playing in the area when they were spotted by bears. Frightened, the girls sought safety on top of a rock. In response, the Great Spirit raised the rock towards the sky to protect them, and their prayers formed the columns on the tower. Today, many tribes still hold ceremonies and rituals at Devils Tower, honoring their ancestors and seeking spiritual guidance. The monument continues to be a place of reverence and respect.

#### **Outdoor Activities**

Aside from its geological significance and cultural heritage, Devils Tower National Monument offers a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. The area surrounding the tower boasts numerous hiking trails, rock climbing routes, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

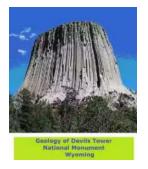
The 1.3-mile Tower Trail is a popular hiking route that circles the base of Devils Tower. As you walk along the trail, you can observe the various plants and animals that call this area home, including deer, pronghorn, and a wide array of bird species.

Rock climbing enthusiasts flock to Devils Tower for its challenging routes and unique climbing experience. Climbing the tower is a coveted achievement for many climbers, but it is important to note that a climbing permit is required.

#### **Preserving the Monument**

Devils Tower National Monument is protected by the National Park Service, ensuring its preservation for future generations. The park service is responsible for maintaining the trails, providing visitor information, and ensuring the safety of both visitors and wildlife.

When visiting Devils Tower, it is important to respect the sacred nature of the site and adhere to the park's regulations. Leave no trace, stay on designated trails, and be mindful of the wildlife that inhabit the area. Devils Tower National Monument truly is a natural wonder that offers both beauty and intrigue. Its geology and cultural significance make it a must-visit destination for anyone interested in the wonders of this world. Whether you are an outdoor enthusiast, a history buff, or simply appreciate the beauty of nature, Devils Tower will leave an indelible mark on your soul.



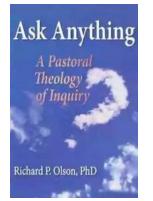
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U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1021-1, "The geology of Devils Tower" This bulletin provides a detailed description of Devils Tower and the geology to be found at the park. Illustrated.



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