



# Rocks shape the land

The shape of the land is often similar to the pattern of the hard and soft rocks below it.

Rocks lie beneath everything, so if you look around from, say, a hilltop, the shape of the land is often made by the shape of the rocks below.

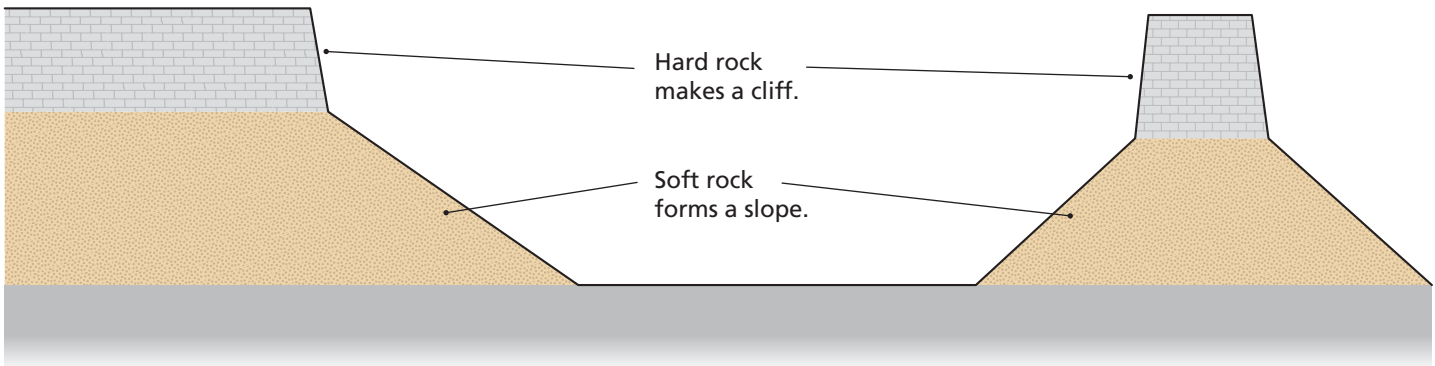
## Flat rocks

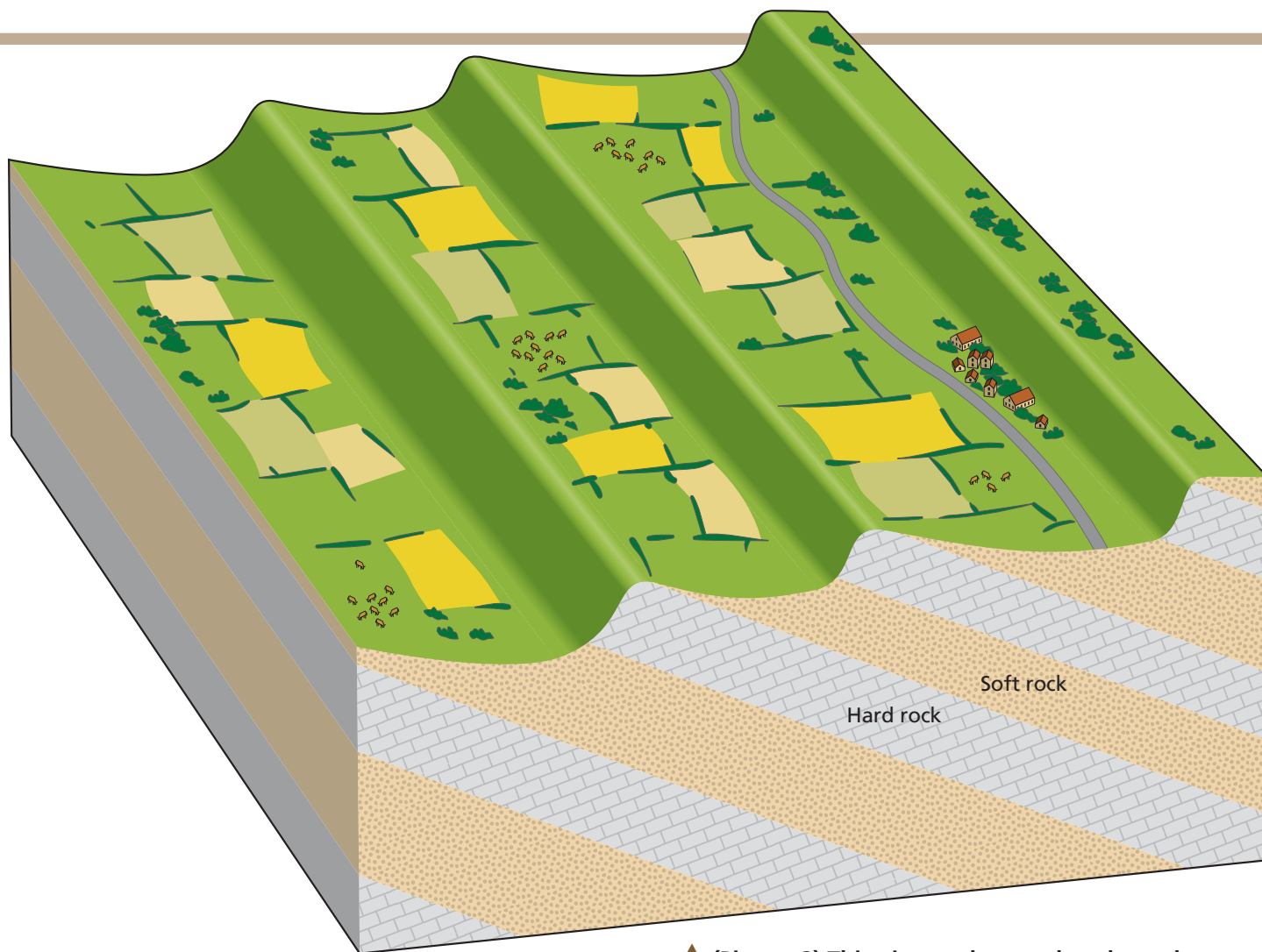
Rocks that lie in flat sheets make tablelands (Picture 1). If they are cut into by rivers or the sea, then the hard layers of rock make tall cliffs, while the soft layers of rock form more gentle slopes.

## Sloping rocks

When sloping rocks lie underground, the pattern of hills and valleys tells us where the hard and softer bands of rock are found (Picture 2). The hills match the bands of hard rock, while the valleys match the bands of soft rock.

▼ (Picture 1) This flat-topped land in a desert is called a tableland. Beneath it there are layers of flat rock. Notice how the cliff is made of just one kind of rock. This is a very hard rock.



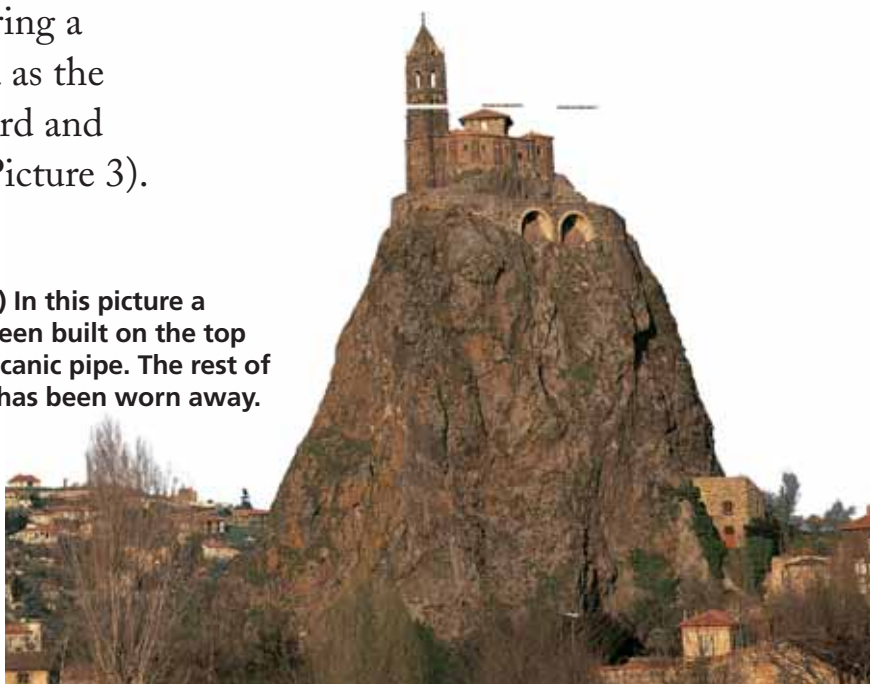


▲ (Picture 2) This picture shows what the rocks might be like under a land of hills and valleys. Notice that the flatter parts are used for farming because this is where soils are thickest.

## Old volcanoes

The original pipe that fed lava during a volcanic eruption fills up with lava as the volcano goes silent. This lava is hard and often remains as a pillar of rock (Picture 3).

► (Picture 3) In this picture a church has been built on the top of an old volcanic pipe. The rest of the volcano has been worn away.



### Summary

- Hard rocks form hills.
- Soft rocks form valleys.
- Flat sheets of rock make tablelands.