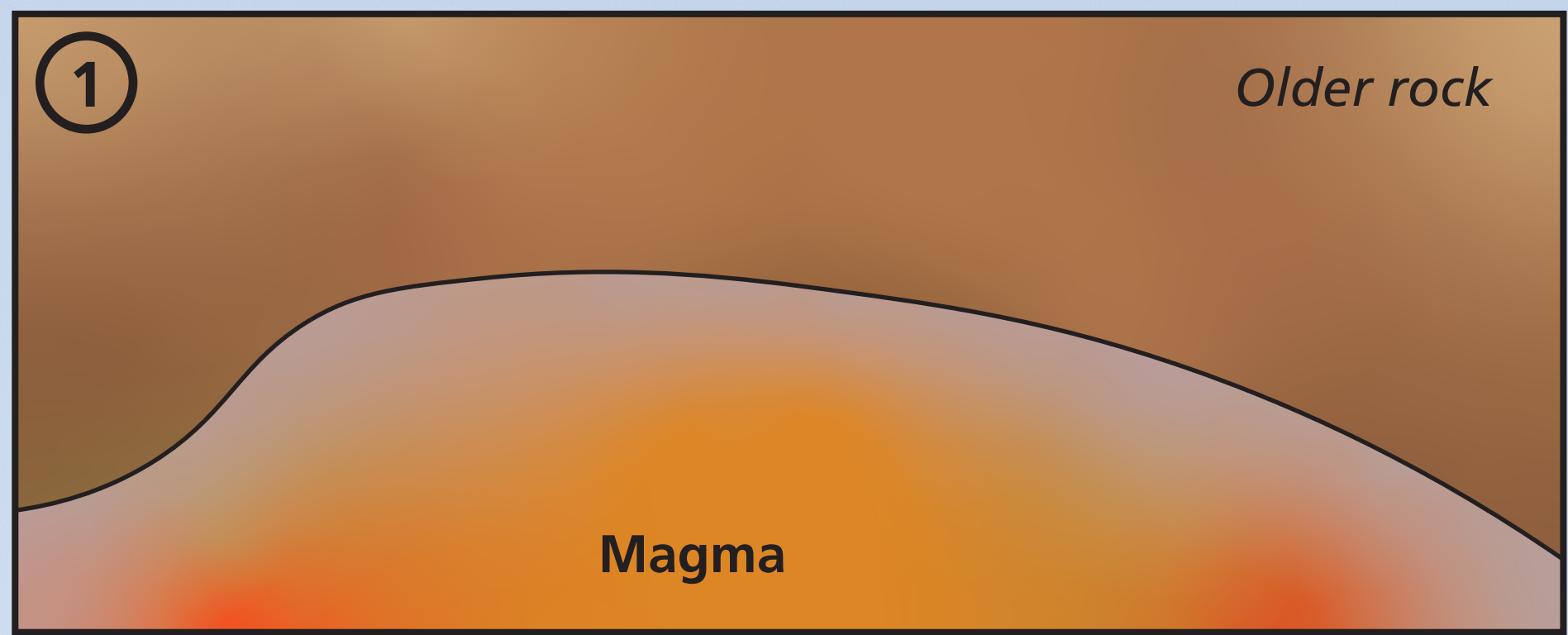
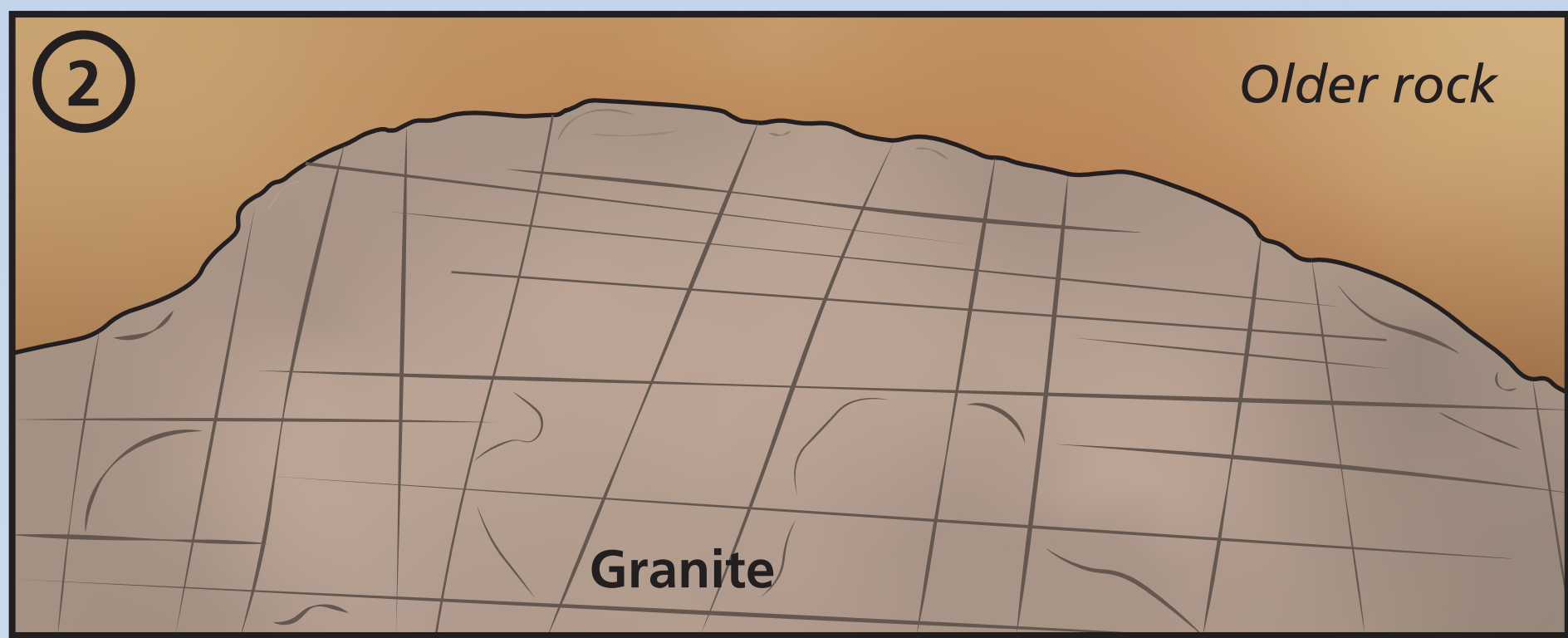
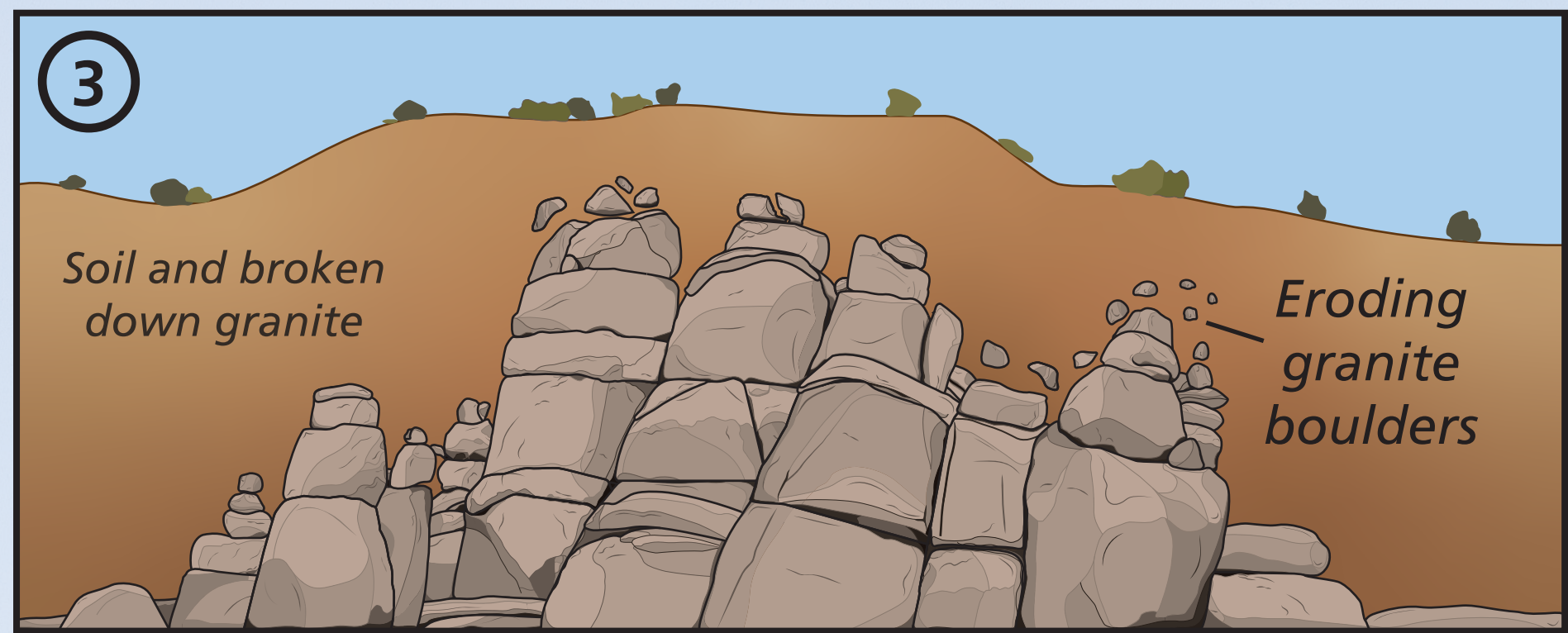




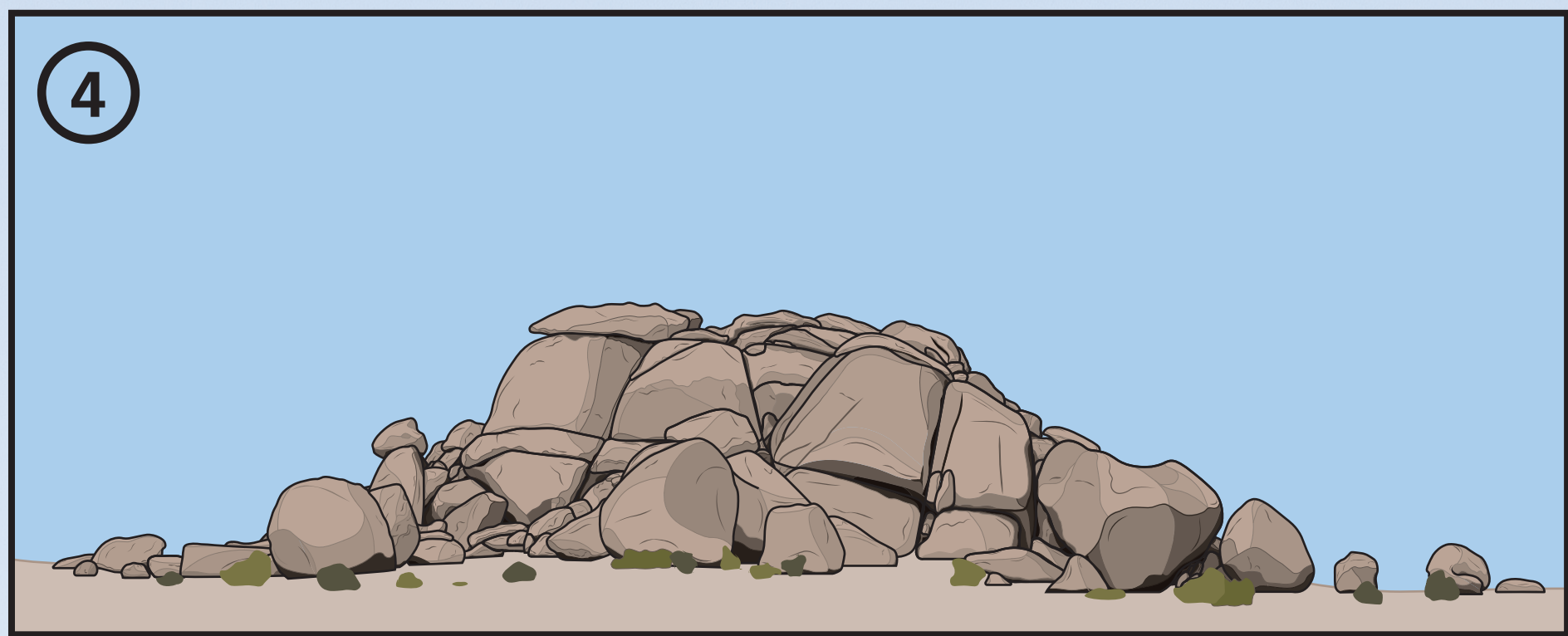
Approximately 150 million years ago, massive pools of magma slowly cooled and solidified underground. This formed large bodies of granite rock called plutons.



Over millions of years, tectonic forces fractured the plutons underground, forming large cracks and fissures within the granite.



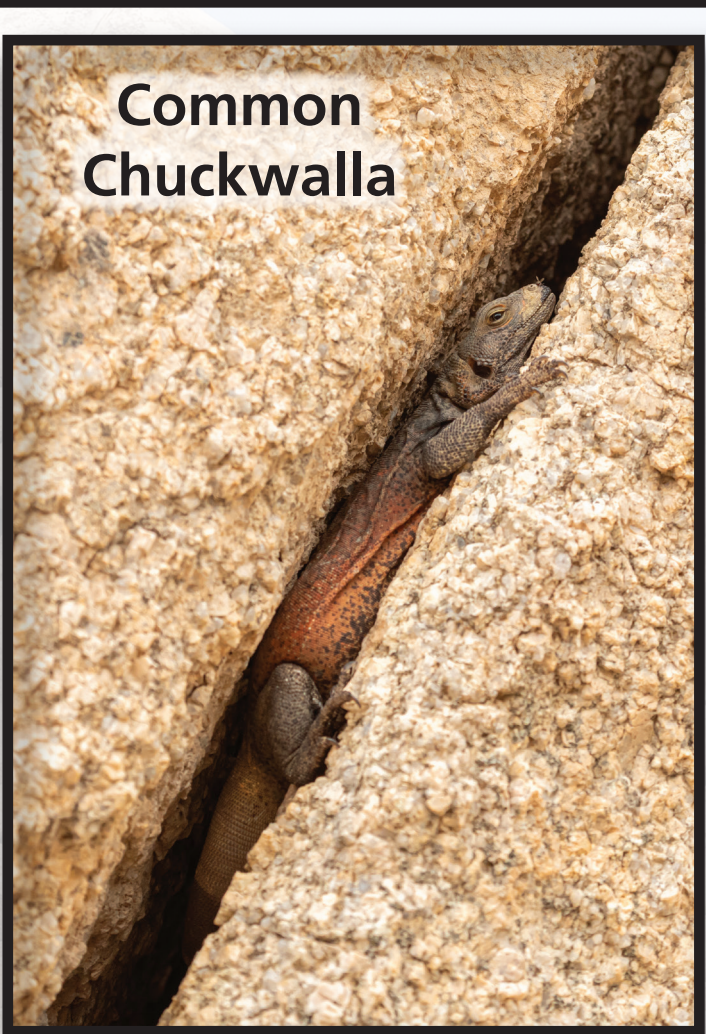
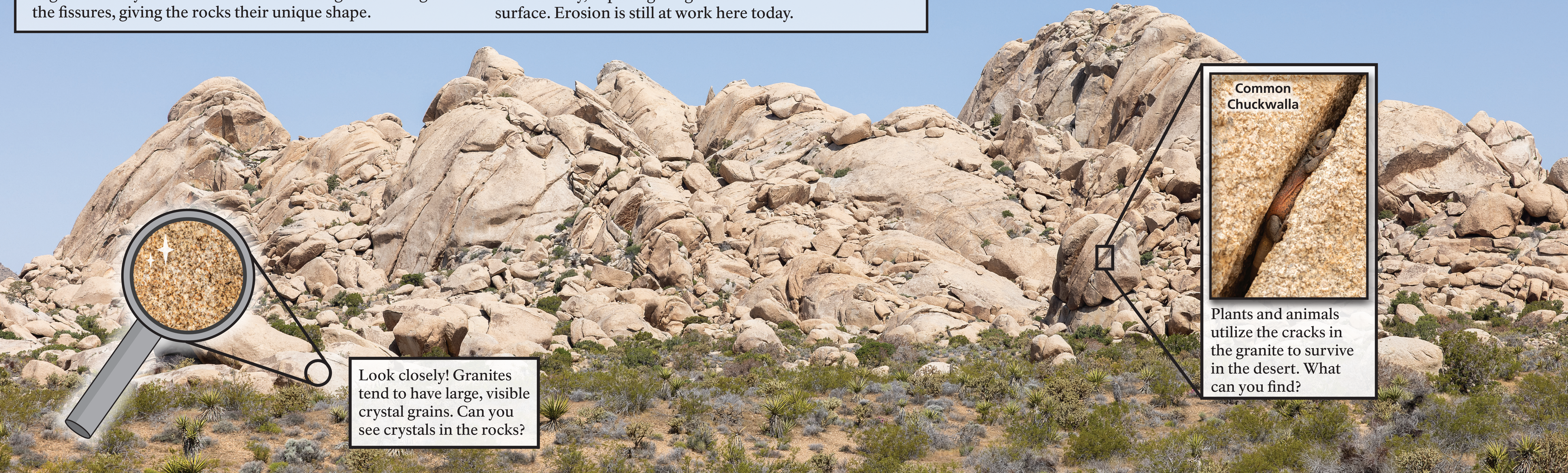
As uplift pushed the plutons toward the surface, erosion began to slowly break down the weakened granite along the fissures, giving the rocks their unique shape.



As the climate became more arid, the overlying soil eroded away, exposing the granite boulders on the surface. Erosion is still at work here today.

Stacked by Giants?

What forces could have piled the immense boulders of the Granite Mountains? Although it may look like giants stacked these boulders up, in reality, the landscape in front of you represents over 150 million years of geologic processes. Erosion and weathering have carved unique shapes into the granite boulders, creating a mosaic of rock formations and cracks. The Granite Mountains are primarily composed of granite and diorite, two igneous rocks that form deep within Earth's crust.



Plants and animals utilize the cracks in the granite to survive in the desert. What can you find?

Look closely! Granites tend to have large, visible crystal grains. Can you see crystals in the rocks?