Kid's Corner

Dead Sea Graben

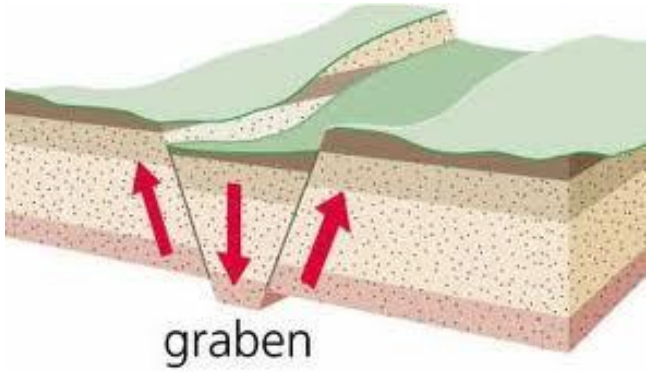
Israel, located in the Middle East, has a semi-arid climate. It is still influenced by the Mediterranean Sea, which allows sufficient rains in the coastal areas during winter. But a mountain range, running north to south along the coast divides the country. Jerusalem sits on the top of this ridge. To the east is the most interesting geologic structure of the country: the Dead Sea Graben.

A graben is an elongated, relatively depressed crustal unit bounded by faults on both sides. It is caused by a divergent movement of the plate. The plate widens and becomes faults, which results in a downlift of the crust between two of the faults. Once it is deep enough sea water will flow in and the graben will become a new sea, slowly but continually widening. This is how the Atlantic Ocean started many million years ago. This geologic structure was first described in German, that's why the German term *graben* (ditch) is used internationally as the geologic term.

The numerous limestone and sandstone layers of the Israeli mountains allow the water to pour from the west flank to the east. Several springs along the Dead Sea each form an oasis. Today, the Dead Sea's east wall graben is of different geology than the west wall because the edge of the Arabial plate has moved northward 65 miles.

Israel has huge limestone karst areas. Small natural caves and abris are very common all around the country and the caves are around a comfortable 20°C. All this applies to the northern part of Israel. The southern part of the country is the Negev desert. Beautiful landscape, interesting geology but no underground sights we know of.

Rock types that are found in the area near the graben include granite, other igneous rocks, acidic silicates, gravel, clay, sandstone, rock salt, and alluvial deposits.



Source:
http://www.showcaves.com/english/il/Geology.html
http://deadseageo.webs.com/geologicalsignificance.htm
http://www.aapg.org/explorer/2008/11nov/deadsea.cfm

Ultimate Rocks and Minerals Word Search

by Katelyn Omar

30 WORDS TO FIND RELATING TO MINERALS, ROCKS, AND ROCK CYCLES

C	O	K	M	T	E	G	I	U	A	R	S	G	E
O	N	O	R	A	B	Y	I	G	N	E	O	U	S
R	S	Y	M	E	G	E	B	N	Q	L	B	C	V
L	E	R	F	H	R	M	E	U	D	C	U	O	K
I	Y	A	L	O	E	U	A	T	R	Y	L	T	E
M	E	T	A	M	O	R	P	H	I	C	S	M	C
E	R	N	V	Y	T	L	C	T	A	K	S	Z	O
S	E	E	A	S	P	D	S	N	I	C	I	D	O
T	G	M	Z	G	L	R	O	G	O	O	E	I	L
O	I	I	I	A	R	C	E	P	O	R	N	A	I
N	T	D	R	E	M	A	P	S	S	L	G	M	N
E	S	E	D	I	M	E	N	T	S	N	D	O	G
I	M	S	L	A	R	E	N	I	M	U	R	N	O
E	Z	N	O	R	B	S	L	A	T	E	R	D	S
V	O	E	N	O	T	S	I	L	V	E	R	E	T

volcano
quartszite
eruption
rockcycle
rock
gneiss
igneous
limestone
metamorphic
slate
sedimentary
emerald
heat
tigereye
pressure
foolsgold
sediments
copper
diamond
gold
minerals
silver
ruby
bronze
stone
gem
granite
lava
magma
cooling

Source: http://www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch/Data/best/earth.science/ultimate.rocks.01.html