Intrusive igneous activity

- I. Plutons from magma cooled below surface
 - A. Named by shape and size of the igneous body
 - a. Dike—Thin, tabular fine-grained layers cutting across sedimentary beds
 - b. Sill—Thin, tabular fine-grained layers parallel to sedimentary beds
 - c. Laccolith—bulged body parallel to sedimentary beds
 - d. Batholith—large intrusive body perhaps hundreds of km wide
 - B. May take millions of years to cool
- II. Origin of magma—formed by melting solid rock
 - 1. Heat—geothermal gradient
 - a. 20-30°C / 1 km depth
 - b. 100 km down—1200-1400°C—near melting temperature of granitic rock
 - c. Rocks that are subducted are heated to this temperature
 - d. Basaltic magma is hotter—heats almost melted granitic rock
 - 2. Pressure
 - a. confining pressure raises melting temperature
 - 1) Release of pressure on hot solid rock can trigger melting
 - 2) Can occur when rock is brought higher in crust by convection
 - 3) This happens at mid-ocean ridges where lithosphere diverges
 - b. melting increases volume
 - 1) pushes rock out of the way
 - 2) forces cracks to open
 - 3) causes uplift
 - 3. Volatiles—water content affects melting temperature (other volatiles too)
 - a. Wetting a dry, hot rock can trigger melting
 - b. Subduction draws water-laden sediments into asthenosphere
 - 1) Water is driven off
 - 2) Causes overlying crust to melt
- III. Partial melting
 - A. Since minerals melt in a specific order (see Bowen's reaction series, pg 60), triggers of melting likely result in only part of solid rock melting
 - B. Result is magma with higher silica content than rock from which it melted
 - C. Leaving behind a silica-depleted solid rock
 - D. The magma is nearer to granite than the rock it comes from

- IV. Plate motion provides the mechanisms to melt rocks into magma
 - A. Convergent plate boundaries—volatiles drive melting
 - 1. From sinking subducted slab—creates basaltic magma
 - 2. Migrates upward and creates volcanic peaks parallel to trench of subduction
 - 3. Continental volcanic arcs form andesitic magma because the basaltic magma melts and assimilates some of the underlying continental crust
 - B. Divergent plate boundaries
 - 1. Release of pressure allows partial melting of mantle by decompression melting
 - 2. Basaltic magma is generated
 - 3. Either cools in place as gabbro, or erupts to ridge as basalt
 - 4. Lava erupting below water forms 'pillow lava'
 - 5. Some divergent plate boundaries occur with continents also—East African Rift zone
 - C. Intraplate volcanism
 - 1. Mantle plumes
 - a. Yellowstone
 - b. Hawaiian Islands
 - c. Canary Islands
 - 2. Over 100 hot-spots across Earth have been recognized
- V. Plate tectonics and igneous activity
 - A. Ring of Fire-
 - 1. composite volcanoes surrounding the Pacific basin
 - 2. Andesite magma—explosive eruptions
 - B. Hot-spot and oceanic ridge volcanoes—
 - 1. fluid basalts of Hawaii and Iceland
 - 2. Most submarine volcanoes are also are of this type
 - C. Continental interior volcanoes—diverse in type
 - 1. Yellowstone—explosive super-volcano/caldera giant
 - 2. Columbia Plateau basalt
- VI. Economic mineral resources
 - A. Ore: concentration that is currently feasible to be mined
 - 1. Reserves—profitable, identified deposits
 - 2. Economic factors may change
 - B. Ores-metallic minerals that can be mined at a profit
 - 1. Disseminated: gold, copper, lead, zinc
 - 2. Vein: sulfides with gold, copper, silver
 - 3. Placer: gold, tin, titanium, diamond
 - 4. Industrial minerals: Sand and gravel, Cement, clay, sulfur, salt