

11. Lithosphere – Basic Platforms of the Landmass and the Ocean Floor

Basic parts of the Landmass and the Ocean floor are **platforms** and **mobile zones**. Platforms are stable parts and the oldest parts of the Earth's Crust.

Landmass

The cores of the land mass are shields. **Shields** are the oldest parts of the Earth and are created by old igneous (granite) and metamorphic (marble) rocks. E.g. Scandinavian, Canadian, African, Australian shield.

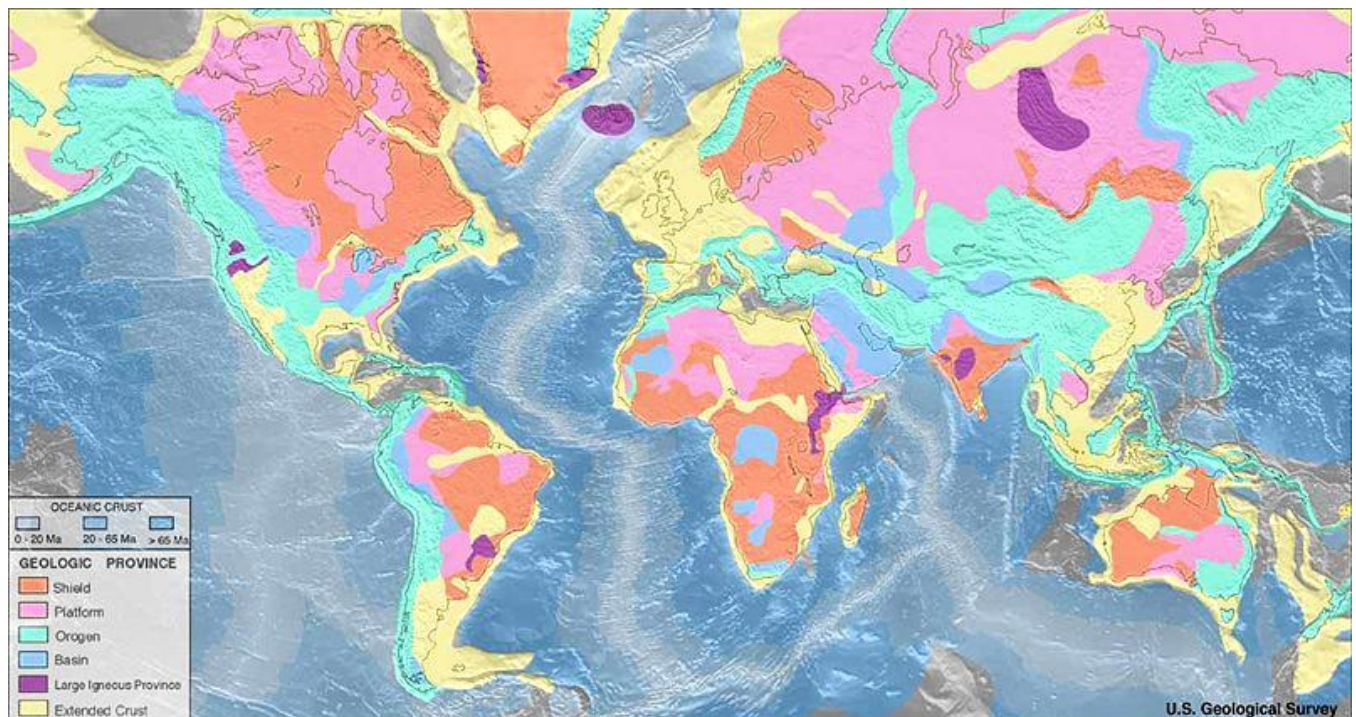
Tables are parts of the platforms where older fold parent rock was covered by younger (sedimentary) rocks. E.g. East-European table.

Orogenic zones are determined by faults. They are created at the platform edges or in between them. *mountain folding activity*

Ocean floor

Oceanic platforms are **oceanic basins**. E.g. Brazil and Argentine basin.

Oceanic mobile zones are represented by **mid-oceanic ridges**. Mid-oceanic ridge is long and narrow oceanic mountain ranges. Somewhere they occur above the sea level as islands (Pacific Ocean). E.g. Mid-Atlantic Ridge.



Keywords

platforms, mobile zones, shields, tables, orogenic zones, ocean floor, oceanic platforms, mid-oceanic ridge, igneous/metamorphic/sedimentary rocks