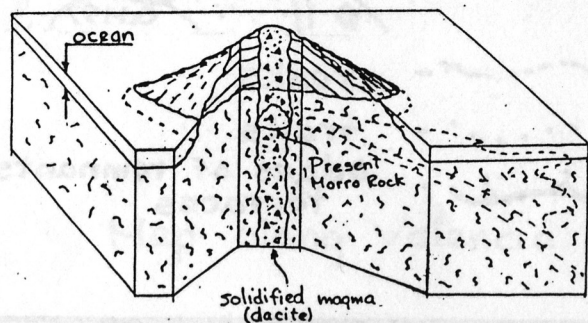
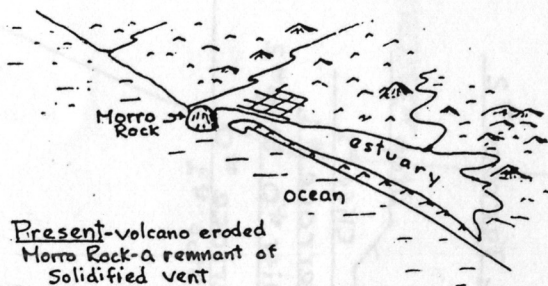


Eruption - 22 million years ago



Following last eruption



Terrace #4 was at sea level about 300,000 years ago and Terrace #5 was being cut at approximately 450,000 years before present. Look to the south. Another remnant can be seen south of Valencia Creek (see maps in centerfold and on page 10).

Continue to the west along the ridge. You are walking on the eroded edges of the folded Miguelito Shale that you observed at STOP #1 on the beach. Many fossils have been found in the shale along this stretch. Look for small clam shells about 3/4 inch long and somewhat larger scallop shells. These fossils were incorporated into the shale when it was deposited and are therefore about 6 million years old.

There is evidence that this narrow ridge is an erosional remnant of an ocean-cut terrace. There are patches of gray sandstone of the type seen on Terrace #3 and holes in the shale (about 1/2 inch diameter) drilled by boring clams when this rock was at sea level 450,000 years ago. Outcrops of the sandstone can be seen off the trail on the south side of the ridge.

Continue up the trail which soon becomes quite steep with considerable loose shale. There is a rather long stretch of level ridge top in the middle of this steep section between Terrace #5 and the old road soon to be reached. This could be a remnant of a wave-cut terrace. If so it would be Terrace #6, older than Terrace #5. This possible Terrace #6 is not shown on the profile in the centerfold. Looking back down from the steep trail section you can see that the ridge top remnant of Terrace #5 consists of 3 different levels. They might represent remnants of different terraces but since they are of similar elevation they are being combined into Terrace #5.

The steep trail connects with an old road coming up Valencia Peak from the left. This is another alternate route you may wish to explore when you return from the summit. It joins Oats Peak Trail which in turn leads to the Visitor Center. Turn right onto the road and continue to the top of the Peak.