

# The Formation of Monument Valley

Monument Valley is a desert area on the Colorado Plateau that is famous for its tall rock towers and wide, flat mesas. A long time ago, rivers, oceans, and winds left behind sand, mud, and clay. Over millions of years, these layers hardened into rock.

Later, the land was pushed upward, like lifting a giant table. Rivers such as the San Juan and Colorado cut into the rocks, making deep canyons. Wind and rain slowly wore away the softer rocks, while the harder sandstones stayed behind. This is how the flat-topped mesas, tall buttes, and skinny spires were formed.

Today, Monument Valley is still changing. Wind blasts the rocks with sand, and rain continues to wash pieces away. Over time, the monuments will keep getting smaller, but for now, they remain one of the most famous and beautiful landscapes in the world.

