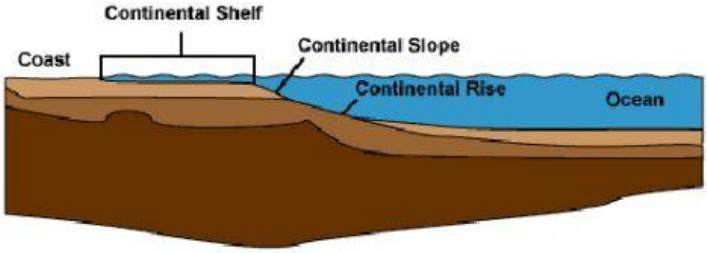
5.16 Continental Margins



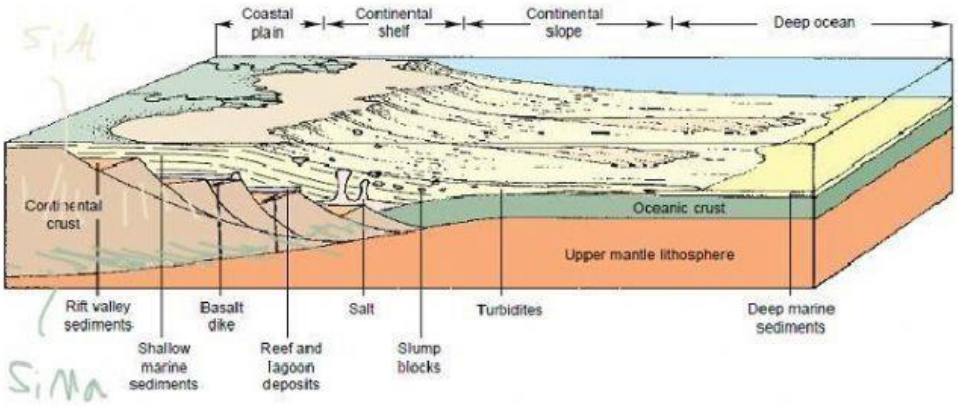
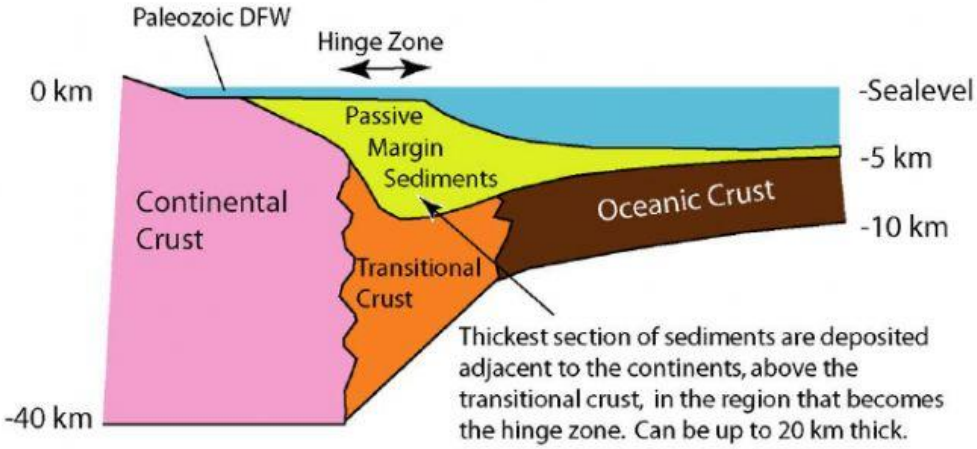
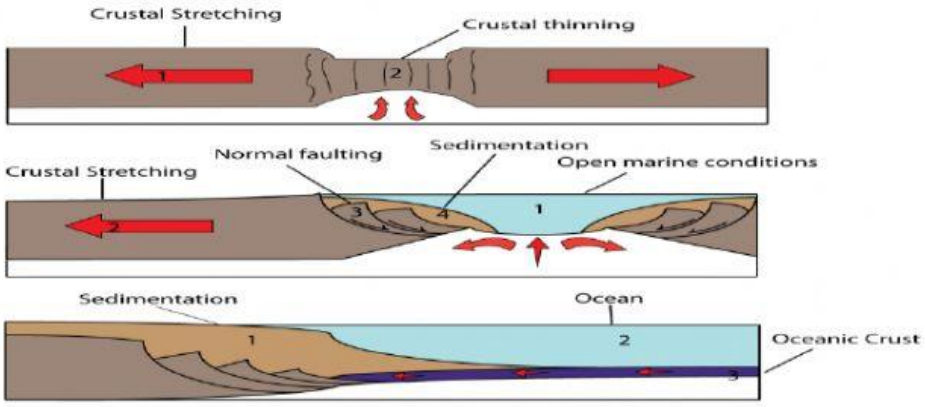


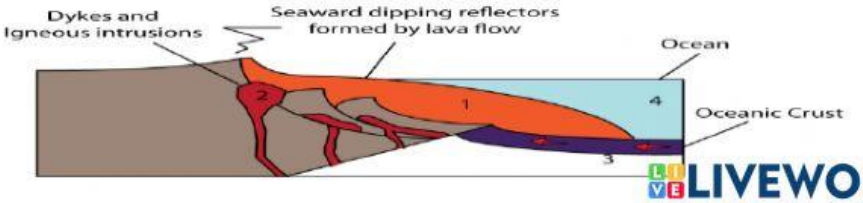
FIGURE 19.37 **A passive continental margin** shows features formed during rifting. Tilted fault blocks that formed during initial rifting define the margins of continental crust. Continental sedimentary deposits consisting of alluvial fan conglomerate and playa lake evaporites may be preserved in narrow grabens. As the continent subsides, reefs and associated beach and lagoon sediments are deposited, and eventually the entire margin is covered by a thick accumulation of shallow-marine sediment that grades into deep-marine sediment. Poorly sorted dirty sandstone and shale are deposited by turbidity currents in the deep water.

Hamblin & Christiansen (2009)





Volcanic Passive margin



LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Describe the continental margin of Western North America.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Describe the continental margin of Eastern North America.

3. Why are there mountain ranges at passive margins?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LIVEWORKSHEETS