

Who Am I?

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How was  
my home  
formed?



Track: Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Photo: Cottonwood Canyons Foundation

# I am a Mountain Goat!

- I live high up in the rocky cliffs.
- My hooves have soft, rubber like pads that act like hiking boots.
- Sometimes you can see me from the road as you leave Little Cottonwood Canyon.

The rocky mountain-tops that I call home were formed by...

- Earthquakes pushing up the earth's crust
- A glacier, two skyscrapers tall, that carved out this canyon 16,000 years ago
- Snow, ice, water and wind scraping away rock

Do you think that Alta's mountains are still changing?

# Alta's Geologic History

Devil's Castle



Photo: Matt Hundhammer

Geology is the study of rocks. Alta's geology tells the story of millions of years of earthquakes, glacial ice and weather. The Mountain Goat's high rocky ridges rose in elevation 25 million years ago when two plates from the earth's crust collided, causing an earthquake that pushed one plate up to create mountains. 16,000 years ago a huge glacier, twelve miles long, two miles wide and 2,000 ft high carved the mountains. The downhill movement of this ice, snow and water created Little Cottonwood Canyon's "U" shape. Alta's mountains continue to be pushed higher and weather continues to erode and redeposit rock.