

Haystack Rock



Geology

Height: 71.62 meters or 235 feet - comprised of about 1 million tons of rock

Comprised of basalt, feldspar, silica, olivine and pyroxene

“How did the Rock get here?”

Around 15 million years ago molten lava flowed from the “Yellowstone Hotspot”. Of the 300 flows that happened, Haystack Rock arrived via the Ginkgo Flow a subset of the Frenchman’s Spring and part of the Columbia River Basalt group. As the lava flowed it burrowed under the soft sediment of the ocean floor and re-erupted as a secondary volcano. Haystack Rock is the now the eroded throat of this volcano.

During the time of the eruption the sea level was about 304 meters (1000 ft) higher than today. Continental uplift has created our shoreline being moved westward.

Finally, 18,000 years later (last Ice Age) and our sea level about 122 meters (400’) Cannon Beach would have been a coastal plain.

Why is it called Haystack? It looks like an old fashioned haystack form.