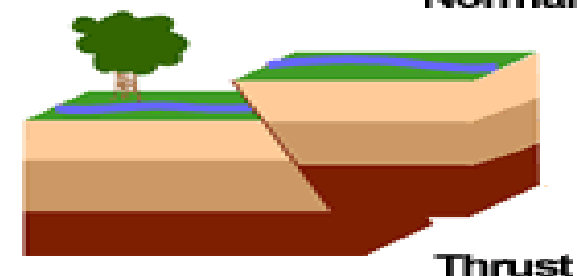
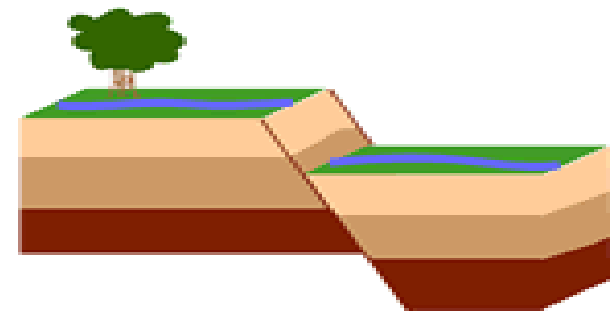
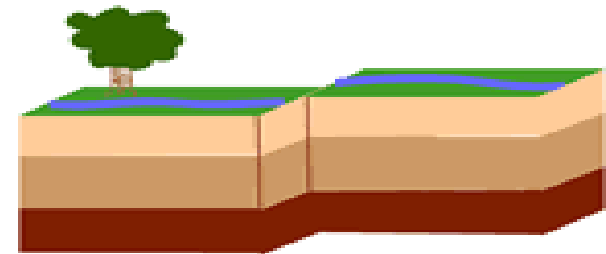


Geological Faults

Earthquakes most often occur along existing faults: **planar fractures in a volume of rock**, across which there has been significant displacement as a result of prior movement.

- **Strike-slip faults** are vertical (or nearly vertical) fractures where the blocks have mostly moved horizontally.
- If the rock mass above an ***inclined fault*** moves down, the fault is termed **normal**, whereas if the rock above the fault moves up, the fault is termed **thrust**.
- Faults are found alone or in clusters, creating a **fault zone**.



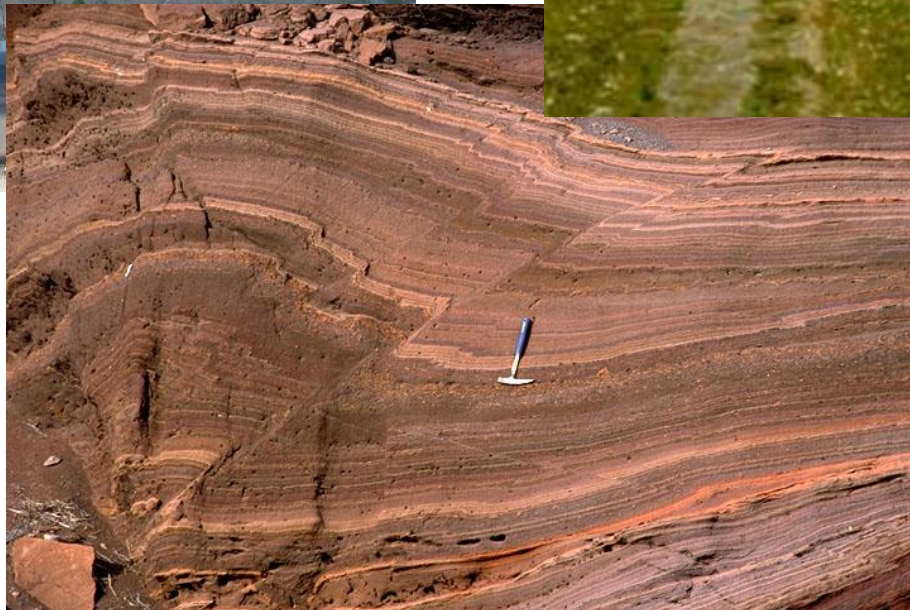
What can faults look like?



↑
Normal



↑
Strike-slip



←
Thrust