

Brown County: Land of Scenic Hills, Ridges, and Valleys

The scenic hills of Brown County were carved from sedimentary rocks that formed about 345 to 355 million years ago when southern Indiana was covered by a shallow inland sea. Sand, silt, and mud from highlands to the northeast were carried into this sea by ancient river systems and were deposited in a vast delta complex similar to that of today's Mississippi River. These deposits later hardened into sandstones, siltstones, and shales that form the Borden Group. Later still, the sea stopped receiving large amounts of sediment, and thick beds of limestone were deposited over these rocks.

Following regional uplift, the rocks were exposed to weathering and erosion. Hundreds of feet of these ancient rocks were then stripped away by the streams of those times, and the scenic hills and valleys of this area were eventually carved. Where more resistant sandstones protected the underlying rocks, much more prominent hills—Weed Patch Hill and Hohen Point, for example—were formed.

Ice Age glaciers never actually reached all of Brown County, but evidence of them can be seen to the north and east of Brown County State Park.

