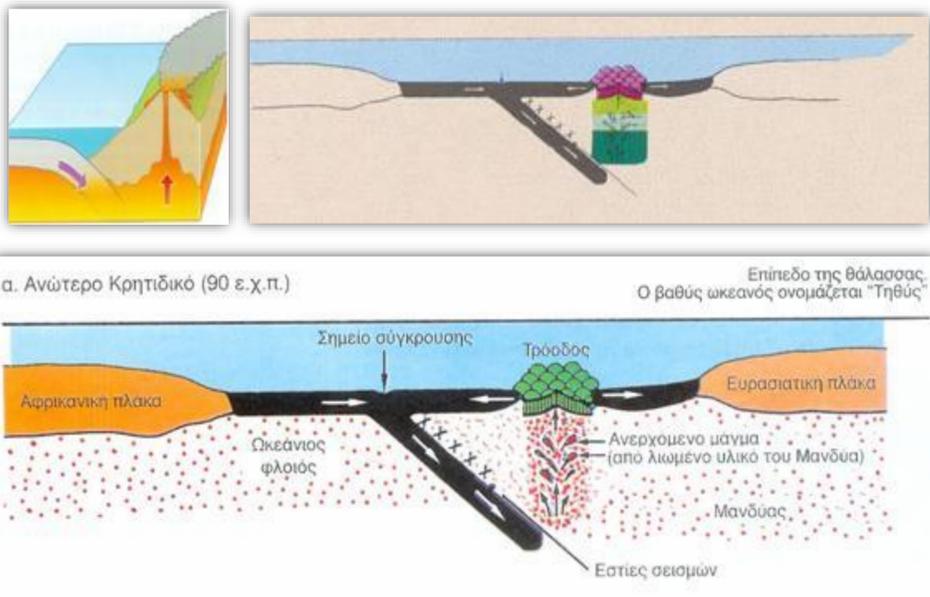




**The Genesis of Cyprus and its Tectonic Evolution:** Cyprus evolved after a series of tectonic events. When the plaque under the Eurasian Sea was swept down, the Troodos ophiolite was created. There followed a tectonic serenity characterized by the deposition of seaweed sediments and the gradual reduction of depths of the seas. Another major tectonic episode was the attachment of the Pentadactylos mountain range to the north side of the Troodos Ophilitus. Troodos rises at an altitude of 1951 meters and Pentadactylos reaches about 1000 meters. After the region had risen above the surface of the sea, the Mesaoria Plain was also formed. This created Cyprus, which continues to move and rise above the surface of the sea.

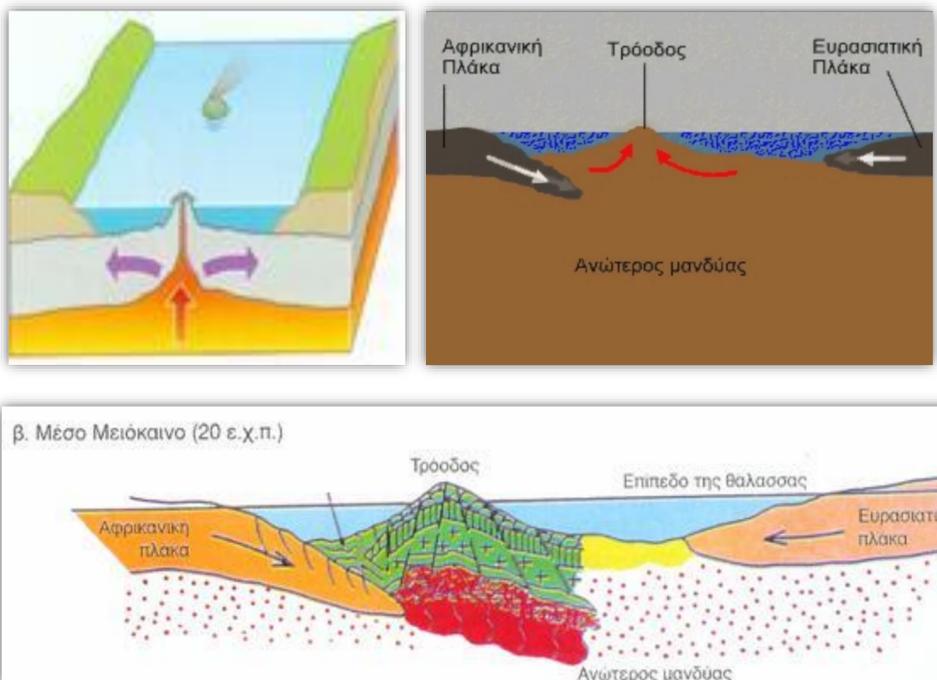
## FIRST PHASE

The mountain range of Troodos is the primary land of Cyprus. This ground was created under the sea because of mostly volcanic activities that ended about 70 million years ago. Then the African plaque closed with the Eurasian one and sank one beneath the other. Effectively, by exerting pressure on the upper mantle of the earth, Troodos was lifted.



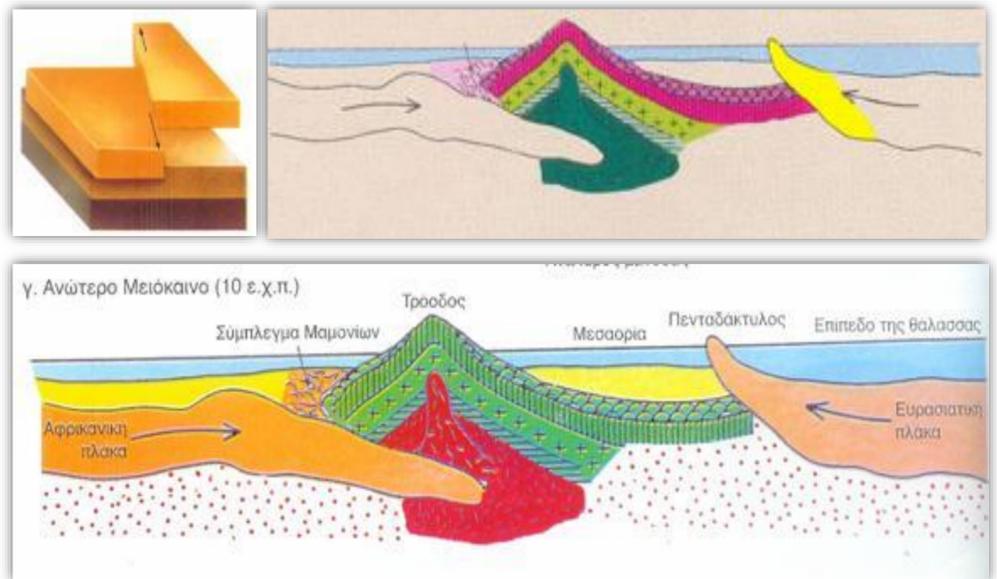
## SECOND PHASE

The highest peak of Troodos appeared above the sea and formed a small island about 20 million years ago. As long as the elevation continued, this island grew until the entire Troodos mountain range emerged above the waves.



## THIRD PHASE

Then, due to intense tectonic disturbances that created other complex processes, and while the African plaque was sinking more and more and the Eurasian plaque creating folds at its extremity, it slowly formed a second island, that of Pentadactylos. So the islands became two, about 15 million years ago

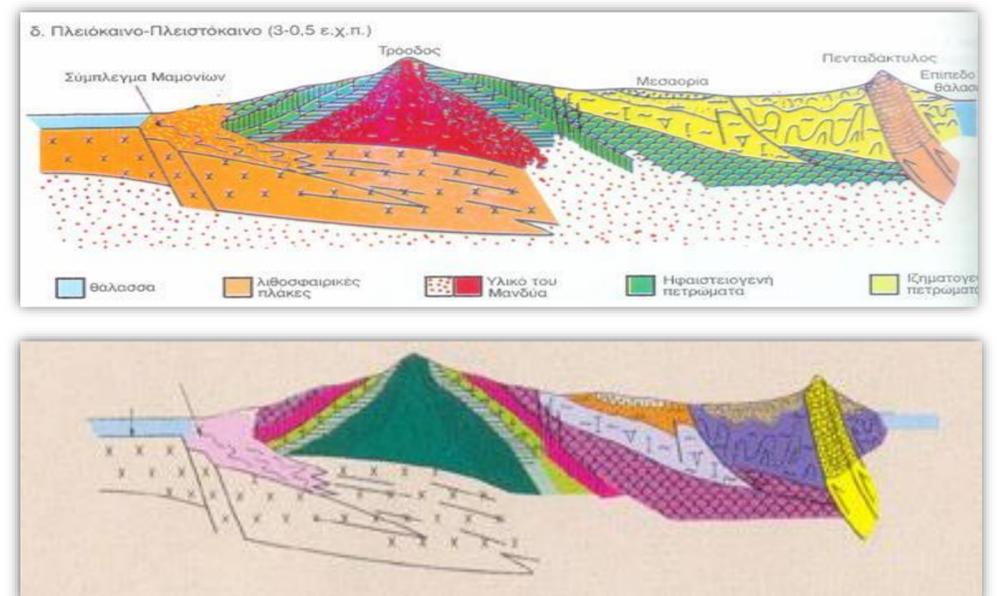


## FOURTH PHASE

During the erosion of the two mountain ranges, the marine deposits and the continued elevation united the two islands with the central plain being a shallow and shallow lagoon which was gradually drained. Various rock islands were also joined together.

Cyprus took its final and current shape 100 million years ago

**Serpentine:** This change of the rocks of the mantle, the sea water of the earth's crust through the cracks penetrated into the rocks of the mantle and altered its material by making its density smaller. It caused a great rise of the Troodos mountain range and sedimentary rocks in its environment.



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