Mountains Formed by Normal Faults

Fault lines are great cracks in the crust.

Normal Faults are caused by tensional forces. When the land moves apart at a fault line one plate drops down lower that the other.

Fault Block Mountains sometimes form when many layers of the Earth's crust are moved vertically upward between two parallel fault lines. Vertical force is caused by the earth's internal pressure. The mountains that are formed in this way are called fault-block mountains. The Sierra Nevada mountains in California and Nevada, and the Grand Teton range of Wyoming are examples of fault-block mountains.

Mountains Formed by Reverse Faults

Reverse faults are caused by compressional forces where plates move together at the fault. The land that rises above can form a mountain.

Overthrust Faults are caused by compressional forces where plates move together at the fault. They are a class of reverse faults that have had folding occur before the fault formed.