

the Piedmont Plateau when the sea occupied the present area of the Coastal Plain, these later sediments form a series of thin sheets, which are inclined slightly to the seaward, so that successively later formations are encountered in passing from the inland border of the region toward the coast. Oscillation of the sea floor, with considerable variation both in the angle and direction of the tilting, went on, however, during the period of Coastal Plain deposition. As a result the stratigraphic relations of these formations, which have generally been held to be of the simplest character, possess in reality much complexity along their western margin, and it is not uncommon to find that intermediate members of the series are lacking, as the result of transgression, so that the discrimination of the different horizons, in the absence of fossils, is often attended with great uncertainty.

The Coastal Plain sediments, deposited after a long break in time between the red sandstones and shales (Newark formation) of Triassic age (hitherto described as overlying the crystalline rocks of the western division of the Piedmont Plateau) and the lowermost of the series now to be considered, complete the sequence of geological formations found represented in Maryland. From the time deposition opened in the coastal region during late Jurassic or early Cretaceous time to the present nearly constant sedimentation has apparently been going on, although frequent unconformity appears along the landward margins of the different formations.

The formations of the Coastal Plain consist of the following:

FORMATIONS OF THE COASTAL PLAIN.	
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CENOZOIC.	
Pleistocene	Columbia.
Neocene	Lafayette. Chesapeake.
Eocene	Pamunkey.
MESOZOIC.	
Cretaceous	Ranococas. Monmouth. Matawan. Raritan.
	Patapsco. } = Potomac
Jurassic (?)	Arundel. } = Group.
	Patuxent. }