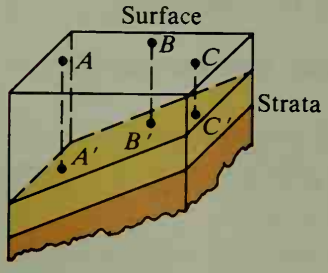
## Career

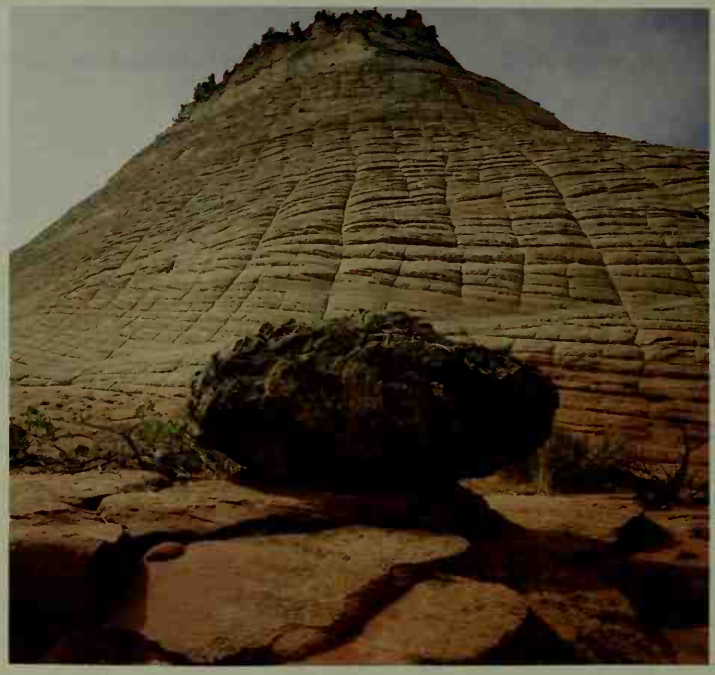
# *Geologist*

Geologists study rock formations like those at Checkerboard Mountain in Zion National Park. Rock formations often occur in *strata*, or layers, beneath the surface of the Earth. Earthquakes occur at *faults*, breaks in the strata. In search of a fault, how would you determine the position of a stratum of rock buried deep beneath the surface of the Earth?

A geologist might start by picking three noncollinear points, $A$, $B$, and $C$, on the surface and drilling holes to find the depths of points $A'$, $B'$, and $C'$ on the stratum. These three points determine the plane of the surface of the stratum.




Geologists may work for industry, searching for oil or minerals. They may work in research centers, developing ways to predict earthquakes.



Today, geologists are trying to locate sources of geothermal energy, energy generated by the Earth's internal heat. A career in geology usually requires knowledge of mathematics, physics, and chemistry, as well as a degree in geology.