# **The** [**Hercynian**](https://www.britannica.com/place/Variscan-orogenic-belt) **massifs**

## **The** [**Vosges**](https://www.britannica.com/place/Vosges-massif-France)

The Alpine earth movements produced a great upswelling along the line of the present upper Rhine, leaving the [Vosges](https://www.britannica.com/place/Vosges-massif-France) with steep eastern slopes that descend to a rift valley containing the plains of [Alsace](https://www.britannica.com/place/Alsace) and Baden; on the west the upland descends rather gently into the scarplands of [Lorraine](https://www.britannica.com/place/Lorraine-region-France). The Vosges reaches its maximum elevation in the south, near the [Alps](https://www.britannica.com/place/Alps), where crystalline rocks are exposed; the highest summits are called *ballons*, and the highest is the Ballon de Guebwiller (Mount Guebwiller), with an elevation of 4,669 feet (1,423 metres). To the north the Vosges massif dips beneath a cover of forested sandstone from the [Triassic Period](https://www.britannica.com/science/Triassic-Period) (about 250 to 200 million years ago).

RAG should answer these:

1. What geological event led to the formation of the Vosges region?
2. What are the characteristics of the eastern slopes of the Vosges, and what geographical feature do they descend into?
3. How does the terrain change on the western side of the Vosges?
4. How does the northern part of the Vosges differ from the southern part in terms of geology?
5. What kind of geological cover is found in the northern part of the Vosges massif?

RAG should not answer these:

1. Who was the first president of the United States?
2. What is the main plot of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*?
3. What causes the common cold?
4. What is the boiling point of water at sea level?
5. What is the chemical formula for table salt?

These question are some problems:

1. What is the color of 7 divided by sadness?
2. Tell me the square root of the Ballon de Guebwiller's elevation minus Tuesday.
3. Is the Vosges heavier than happiness?
4. What triangle lives in the Rhine Valley?
5. Why does the sandstone remember the Alps?