Amazing Rock and Land Formations in the U.S. Selma Chalk, Alabama

Located on England's southeastern coastline, the famous White Cliffs of Dover are a wondrous sight to see. Lesser known, however, is their domestic and mysterious counterpart: the white cliffs of Alabama.

Found along the Tombigbee River in places West Central Alabama such as Demopolis and Epes, these white cliffs are part of the Selma Group of chalk formations, according to Rural Southwest Alabama. Chalk is a type of soft limestone that is usually white or light gray in color with a fine texture and "is formed mainly from the calcareous shell remains of microscopic marine organisms," according to Geology.com. How, then, did the remains of marine organisms end up so far inland?

The sedimentary limestone bed, or chalk, of the Selma Group "was formed...between 66 million to 38 million years ago," lists the Encyclopedia of Alabama. Back then, the sea level was much higher: "The plains of Alabama and Mississippi were the continental shelf...and the shoreline was at the base of the mountains," explains Dr. David T. King, Jr., Professor of Geology at Auburn University.

Interestingly, the Selma Chalk formations were deposited "at about the same time as England’s famous white cliffs of Dover," notes Rural Southwest Alabama.

Photos Below:

The White Cliffs of Epes, Ala. (Billy Milstead/RuralSWAlabama.org)


Memphis
Bartlett
Germantown
Chattanooga
Little Rock
Forrest City
Corinth
Florence
Huntsville
Dalton
Greenville
Ripley
Booneville
Decatur
Fort Payne
Helena
Oxford
Tupelo
Rome
Gainesville
Pine Bluff
Clarksdale
Hamilton
Cullman
Gadsden
Sandy Springs
Athens
Atlanta
Cleveland
Grenada
Aberdeen
Jasper
Monticello
Anniston
Greenville
Winona
Starkville
Birmingham
Carrollton
Dorado
Tuscaloosa
Hoover
Peachtree City
Griffin
Eatonton
Kosciusko
Aliceville
LaGrange
Bastrop
Yazoo City
Philadelphia
Jemison
Macon
Opelika
Thomaston
Monroe
Demopolis
Warner Robins
Vicksburg
Jackson
Forest
Meridian
Selma
Montgomery
Columbus
Winnsboro
Alberta
Americus
Finleyson
Newellton
Raleigh
Eufaula
Midway
Laurel
Waynesboro
Greenville
Troy
Fitzgerald
Natchez
Brookhaven
Albany
Monroeville
Alexandria
Hattiesburg
Enterprise
Dothan
Tifton
Douglas
Moultrie
Liberty
McComb
Citronelle
Brewton
Marksville
Bogalusa
Crestview
Marianna
Thomasville
Valdosta
Prichard
Mobile
Opelousas
Baton Rouge
Gulfport
West Pensacola
Pensacola
Fort Walton Beach
Tallahassee