

Standing Rocks: Ancient Remnants of Erosion

Standing rocks are pillarlike masses of rock that stand alone, detached from the main body of bedrock in an adjacent cliff or hillside. There are several standing rocks in Indiana: Jug Rock, near the town of Shoals in Martin County; Salt Shake Rock, near Sulfur in Crawford County; and Pompey's Pillar, near Napoleon in Ripley County. The Seven Pillars of the Mississinewa, near Peru in Miami County, are similar in structure but are still attached to the parent rock and, therefore, are almost, but not quite, standing rocks.

Because standing rocks are erosional remnants shaped by frost, plant roots, and running water acting on joints in the rock, continued weathering and erosion will ultimately destroy them. Pedestal Rock in Shades State Park (located in Montgomery, Parke, and Fountain Counties) collapsed after a severe storm. Only a pile of shattered sandstone slabs is left.



Jug Rock



Salt Shake Rock



Seven Pillars