I have been in the Alps of Switzerland and the Himalayas in India, but in neither of those ranges has there been any setting of landscape that can compare with this before.

Robert Frost, 1903

Mountain scenery on an exceptional scale gives Glacier National Park to a range above, along which are found splendid mountain peaks with sharply chiseled corners, separated from each other by narrow, intricately carved ridges, and waterfalls, lakes, and glaciers turned away in the higher hanging valleys. Most often, the guardian of such scenic highlands also affords a haven for those who treasure and study interesting geology. Sometimes referred to as the "Crowns of the Continent," Glacier National Park was established on May 11, 1910. It is a place of such magnificence that ultimately two national parks, one in Montana and the other in the Canadian Province of British Columbia, were bestowed. 

In the photograph of St. Gotthard, the sheer, massive rock face is composed mostly of dolomite rock. This rock is formed from a series of marine deposits that have been subjected to considerable pressure and heat. In this case, the pressure and heat were sufficient to transform the limestone into marble. The marble in the photograph was formed from a series of marine deposits that have been subjected to considerable pressure and heat. In this case, the pressure and heat were sufficient to transform the limestone into marble.

After the Middle Proterozoic, rocks were laid down, then slowly advanced and squeezed across what is now Glacier National Park, burying the rocks under successive younger ones. Between 160-55 million years ago, the rocks of western North America were uplifted, forming the present Rocky Mountains. This uplift resulted in a series of peaks and valleys, which are now known as the Rocky Mountains. The uplift of the mountains caused the elevation of a mass of rock that was thousands of feet thick and hundreds of miles long and moved eastward approximately 40 miles. This spectacular feature, well exposed on Summit Mountain, is one of the most impressive features of the park.

Glossary of selected glacial terms

Arctic—Arctic, treeless mountainous area or upland ridge that was sculptured by glaciers and restored from the Quaternary glaciation of the western United States.

Cuesta—Cuesta, a steep, scarp-like slope that is bounded by a level or gently sloping surface.

Glacial trough—Glacial trough, a valley or depression carved by a river or stream that has been destroyed and replaced by a glacial valley.

Glacier—Glacier, a large mass of ice formed on land for the repeated accumulations of snow and metamorphosed into ice.

Ridge—Ridge, a long, narrow mass of rock or debris, bounded by intervening valleys of smaller elevation, of which the highest is the summit ridge.

Intermontane—Intermontane, a term used to describe a region that is not part of a mountain range, but rather a series of isolated peaks.

Monadnock—Monadnock, a large, rounded hill, usually isolated from other mountains.

Scarp—Scarp, a steep, scarp-like slope that is bounded by a level or gently sloping surface.

Valley—Valley, a long, narrow mass of rock or debris, bounded by intervening valleys of smaller elevation, of which the highest is the summit ridge.

Wasteland—Wasteland, a region that is not part of a mountain range, but rather a series of isolated peaks.

Zigzag—Zigzag, a series of peaks or ridges that are arranged in a series of sharp turns.