

Stress Patterns

The mechanisms that produced these stress patterns have gone away but the patterns remain.



Stress Patterns in Dirt
Mechanism: Freezing
Why This Particular Pattern?



Hexagonal Tiling of Rock
Mechanism: Gradual Cooling
Why This Particular Pattern?



Pentagonal Tiling of Dirt
Mechanism: Drying



Pentagonal Tiling of Dirt
Mechanism: Drying

Why this pattern? Does it have to do with the composition of the dirt; it's depth, how quickly it dried?



At first this might not look much like pentagonal tiling, but count the number of sides for several of them. It's pretty irregular but basically each one has five sides. Why?