

Barberton Greenstone Belt

By IASToppers | 2024-03-22 15:50:00



Key Facts

Barberton Greenstone Belt

Geologists have recently discovered evidence of some of the **earliest known earthquakes** in **3.3 billion-year-old rocks** within the **Barberton Greenstone Belt** in **southern Africa**.



[ref-UNESCO world heritage centre]

About the Barberton Greenstone Belt:

- The Barberton Greenstone Belt is located on the eastern edge of the **Kaapvaal Craton** in **South Africa**.
- Named after the town **Barberton** and recognized for its **greenish hue**, this area is famous for its **gold mineralisation** and contains **komatiites**, a rare type of **ultramafic volcanic rock** named after the **Komati River**.
- The **Makhonjwa Mountains**, or **Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains**, make up **40%** of the belt, offering a significant **geological record** of Earth from **3.2 to 3.6 billion years ago** and housing some of the **earliest traces of life on Earth**, ranking just after the **Isua Greenstone Belt** in **Western Greenland**.