The Big Idea-Subsurface topography

S6E3 b. Ask questions to identify and communicate, using graphs and maps, the composition, location, and subsurface topography of the world’s oceans.

Underneath the surface of the ocean, on the sea floor, the Earth’s crust has plains, mountains, and valleys, which are often larger than those on dry land. These undersea landforms are constantly being created, altered and recycled by tectonic plate movement just like the landforms on dry land.

Some examples of subsurface topography are continental shelf, continental slope, continental rise, seamounts, ocean trench, rift valley, abyssal plain, mid-ocean ridge and volcanic island.