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Structural analysis of impact-related deformation in the collar rocks of the Vredefort Dome, South Africa

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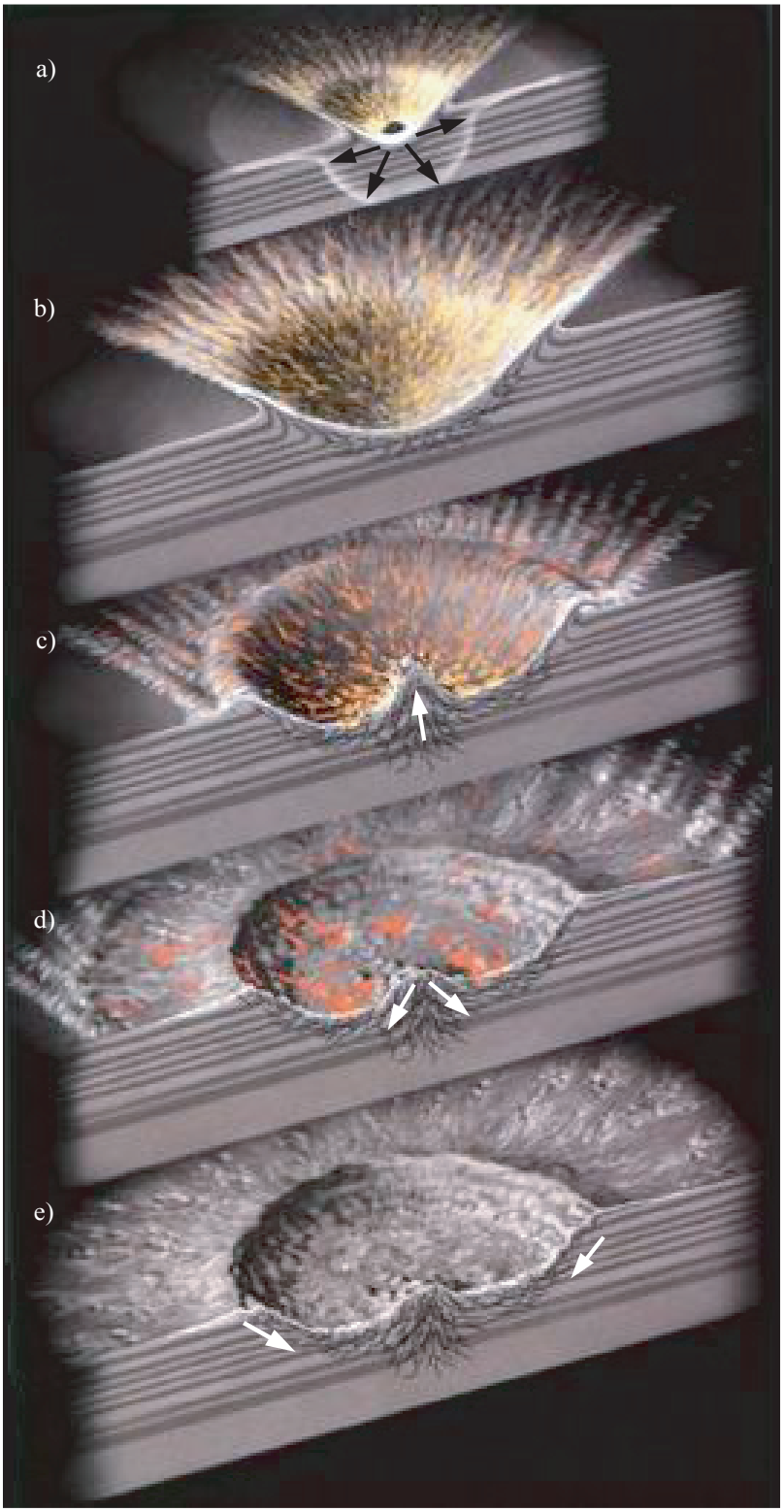

Fig. 1.5: Schematic illustration of the formation of a complex crater. The most important difference to simple craters, besides the large size, is the presence of a central uplift. There is no sharp boundary between the different stages, rather a transition from one stage to another. (a) Contact/compression phase: Initiation of the shock wave, material is moved out-and downward (arrows). (b) Excavation phase: Ejection of material and formation of a transient cavity. (c) Modification phase: Rise of the central uplift, and (d) subsequent collapse. (e) Final stages of the modification phase is characterized by inward slumping of material from the crater rim (arrows; source: www.nasa.gov/multimedia).