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COVERAGE

Idealized cycle of Neogene sedimentation on the U.S. Atlantic continental margin; deposition is a direct response to fluctuations in (top left) sea levels, (top right) climates, and (bottom left) continental shelf water masses. The first three stages reflect warming climates through a sea-level transgression associated with deglaciation and increased interaction of the Gulf Stream with the configuration of the continental margin, the accentuated nutrient-rich waters, and phosphate deposition. Stage four (bottom right) reflects cold climates and sea-level low-stands of glacial maximums. Phosphate deposition = P, dark blue dots; carbonate deposition = C, white dots; and terrigenous deposition = T, brown dots. See page 123. [Painting by Whiting M. Toler, Washington, North Carolina]