

# Plate Tectonics Study Guide and Practice

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## Going **DEEP** with PLATE TECTONICS

Study Goals and Practices

How do mountains form? Why do earthquakes happen? What is a volcano, and why does it erupt? Throughout recorded human history there were always questions like these trying to understand how or why these events happened. Sometimes such as these led to a plenty of theories from hundreds of scientists over the past century to find the answers. These answers were found from the collected facts and evidence, that was a theory to explain it all... the Theory of Plate Tectonics!

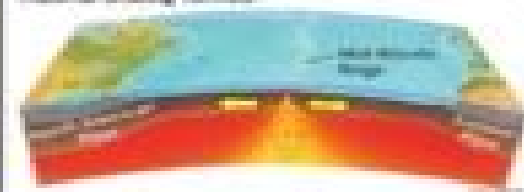
The theory explains Earth in which it major and it minor tectonic plates move about on top of the asthenosphere. Whether they are colliding, dividing, or sliding, these plates are always in motion. Where these plates meet, called "plate boundaries", is where most of the earthquakes and volcanoes on Earth happen.

The Theory of Plate Tectonics understands that the Earth forms new crust at the mid-ocean ridges. This crust begins to move outward to either side of the ridge. As it moves, it is forced below another plate where it is melted back into magma. For now the geological feature, this recycled crust emerges again at a mid-ocean ridge.

What causes the plates to move around? It's very simple really! It's called convection. Think of how boiling water in a pot moves... the hotter water rises up, then, as the water moves to the pot's edge, it is forced back down to the heated part up again, making the water, instead of something static, it is something moving.

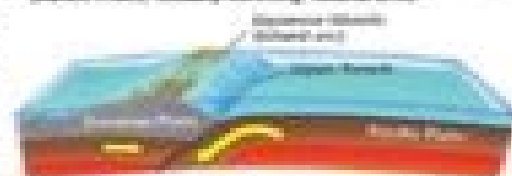
There are THREE types of plate boundaries: Divergent, Convergent, and Transformal! Each of these give rise to new landforms, and can cause many natural disasters.

**Divergent Plate Boundaries** are where plates are moving away from each other. This movement is found along mid-ocean ridges where new crust material is being formed.



**Convergent Plate Boundaries** are where one plate subducts under crust that is less dense to be recycled back into the asthenosphere. There are three types of convergent plate boundaries:

- **Ocean to Ocean:** when the crust of two oceanic plates meet, usually forming island arcs.



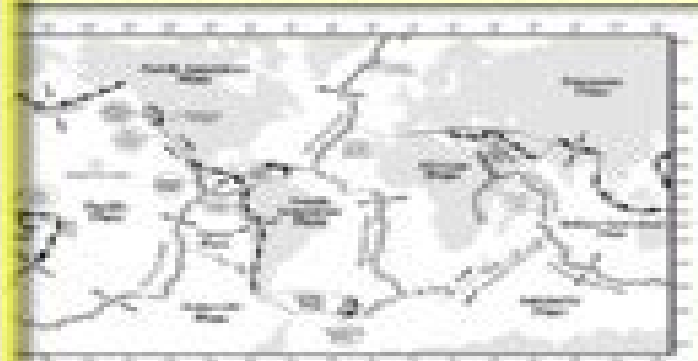
- **Ocean to Continental:** when oceanic crust subducts under continental crust forming mountain chains and volcanic activity.



- **Continental to Continental:** when two continental plates meet and buckle up forming large mountains.



**Transform Plate Boundaries** are where plates move side by side with each other resulting in frequent earthquakes.



Boundary Type	Stress Type
Divergent	Tension
Convergent	Compression
Transform	Shear

Boundary Type	Stress Type
Divergent	Tension
Convergent	Compression
Transform	Shear
San Andreas Fault	Shear

4. The type of the fault provides the force that creates the compressional-tensional shear and stress the tectonic plates. Describe what would happen as the Earth's core cools deeper over billions of years?

5. What are the different ways in which the tectonic plates interact with each other as they move around?

# Plate Tectonics Review Guide Answers

**Peter L. Kresan, Reed Mencke, Frank  
Press, Raymond Siever**



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