

Tectonic Plates Activity Sheet

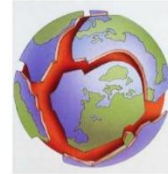
Name: Date:

I. Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the best answer for each question.

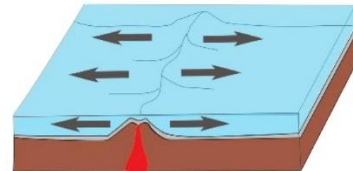
1. The Earth's crust is divided into several large and small, moving pieces called:

A) Continents
B) Oceans
C) Tectonic plates
D) Mountains



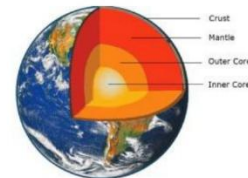
2. The theory that explains how Earth's plates move and cause geological events is called:

A) Continental drift
B) Plate tectonics
C) The rock cycle
D) The water cycle



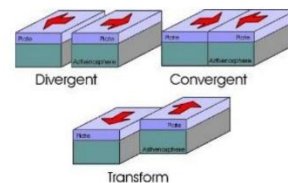
3. Which layer of the Earth is responsible for the movement of tectonic plates?

A) Inner core
B) Outer core
C) Mantle
D) Crust



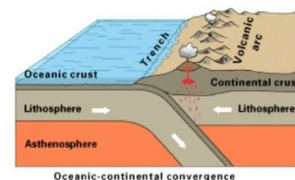
4. A plate boundary where plates move apart is called:

A) Convergent
B) Divergent
C) Transform
D) Subduction



5. At a convergent boundary where an oceanic plate collides with a continental plate, what process occurs?

A) Mountain building
B) Seafloor spreading
C) Subduction
D) Transform fault



6. The San Andreas Fault in California is an example of what type of plate boundary?

A) Divergent
B) Convergent
C) Transform
D) Subduction



7. Which geological feature is often associated with divergent plate boundaries?
- A) Deep-sea trenches
 - B) Mid-ocean ridges
 - C) Volcanic arcs
 - D) Folded mountains

II. Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

Fill in the blank with the correct term.

8. The supercontinent that existed millions of years ago and later broke apart is called _____.
9. The Ring of Fire is a zone of intense volcanic and seismic activity located around the _____ Ocean.
10. The movement of tectonic plates is primarily driven by _____ in the Earth's mantle.
11. When two continental plates collide, they form _____.
12. A long, narrow depression in the ocean floor, formed by subduction, is called a _____.

III. Short Answer Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

13. Describe the three types of plate boundaries.

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14. Explain the process of seafloor spreading.

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15. How do subduction zones contribute to the formation of volcanoes and earthquakes?

16. What evidence supports the theory of plate tectonics?

17. Differentiate between oceanic crust and continental crust in terms of thickness and density.

18. How are deep-sea trenches formed?

19. What are the major tectonic plates? (Name at least 5)

20. Explain how the movement of tectonic plates can cause both slow, gradual changes and sudden, dramatic events on Earth's surface.



Tectonic Plates Activity Sheet Answer Key

1	C
2	B
3	C
4	B
5	C
6	C
7	B
8	Pangaea
9	Pacific
10	convection currents
11	mountains
12	trench
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Divergent: Plates move apart, creating new crust. ▪ Convergent: Plates collide; one plate may subduct, or mountains may form. ▪ Transform: Plates slide horizontally past each other.
14	Seafloor spreading occurs at divergent boundaries where magma rises from the mantle, cools, and forms new oceanic crust, pushing older crust away.
15	At subduction zones, the descending plate melts, forming magma that rises to the surface and erupts as volcanoes. The process also causes friction and stress, leading to earthquakes.
16	<p>Evidence includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The fit of the continents ▪ Fossil distribution across continents ▪ Matching rock formations on different continents ▪ Magnetic striping on the ocean floor ▪ Seafloor spreading ▪ GPS measurements of plate movement
17	Oceanic crust is thinner and denser than continental crust, which is thicker and less dense.
18	Deep-sea trenches are formed at convergent boundaries where an oceanic plate subducts beneath another plate.
19	Examples include Pacific Plate, North American Plate, South American Plate, Eurasian Plate, African Plate, Indo-Australian Plate, Antarctic Plate.
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Slow changes: Plate movement causes gradual changes like the slow formation of mountain ranges or the widening of oceans over millions of years. ▪ Sudden events: Sudden events occur when built-up stress between plates is released, causing earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

