



Warm-up

p. 700, 1. Name the 4 layers of Earth from center outward:

Inner core, outer core, mantle, crust

p.701, 2. In South Africa gold mines at depths of 2 miles the temperature is _____.

50°C or 120°F

p. 701, 3. What helps maintaining the Earth high internal temperature?

Radioactive isotopes



Warm-up

p. 702, 1. What dinosaur fossil gave evidence for Plate tectonics

Mesosaurus

p.702, 2. Wegener's theory was ignored until _____
when data discovered on ocean floor.

1960's

p. 702, 3. What Evidence came from ocean floor ?

- Rocks that had alternating magnetic polarity bands
- and age of rocks got older from mid-ocean ridges



Objectives

- **Identify** Earth's different geologic layers.
- **Explain** how the presence of magnetic bands on the ocean floor supports the theory of plate tectonics.
- **Describe** the movement of Earth's lithosphere using the theory of plate tectonics.
- **Identify** the three types of plate boundaries and the principal structures that form at each of these boundaries.



Plate Tectonics

- Around 1915, German scientist Alfred Wegener proposed the idea that the continents were once united as a **supercontinent** and then drifted apart.
 - He pieced the continents together like a puzzle and called the supercontinent they formed **Pangaea**.
 - Wegener found identical fossils on widely separate continents, which supported his idea.





Plate Tectonics, *continued*

- Evidence for Wegener's ideas came later.
 - Wegener's theory of continental drift was ignored until structures discovered on the ocean floor provided evidence for a mechanism for the movement of continents.
 - Symmetrical bands on either side of a mid-ocean ridge indicate that the two sides of the ridge were moving away from each other and new ocean floor was rising up between them.





Plate Tectonics, *continued*

- Alignment of oceanic rocks supports the theory of moving plates.
 - Iron in molten rock aligns itself with Earth's magnetic field as it cools.
 - The Earth's magnetic field reverses polarity about every 200,000 years
 - The process is recorded as magnetic bands in rock, based on the age of the rock.
 - Symmetrical bands on either side of the Mid Atlantic Ridge suggest that the crust was moving away from the ridge.





Plate Tectonics, *continued*

- Earth has plates that move over the mantle.
 - The crust and upper portion of the mantle are divided into about seven large pieces called **tectonic plates**.
- **Lithosphere** the solid, outer layer of Earth, that consists of the crust and the rigid upper mantle





Plate Tectonics, *continued*

- **Plate tectonics** the theory that explains how the outer parts of Earth change through time, and that explains the relationships between continental drift, sea-floor spreading, seismic activity, and volcanic activity

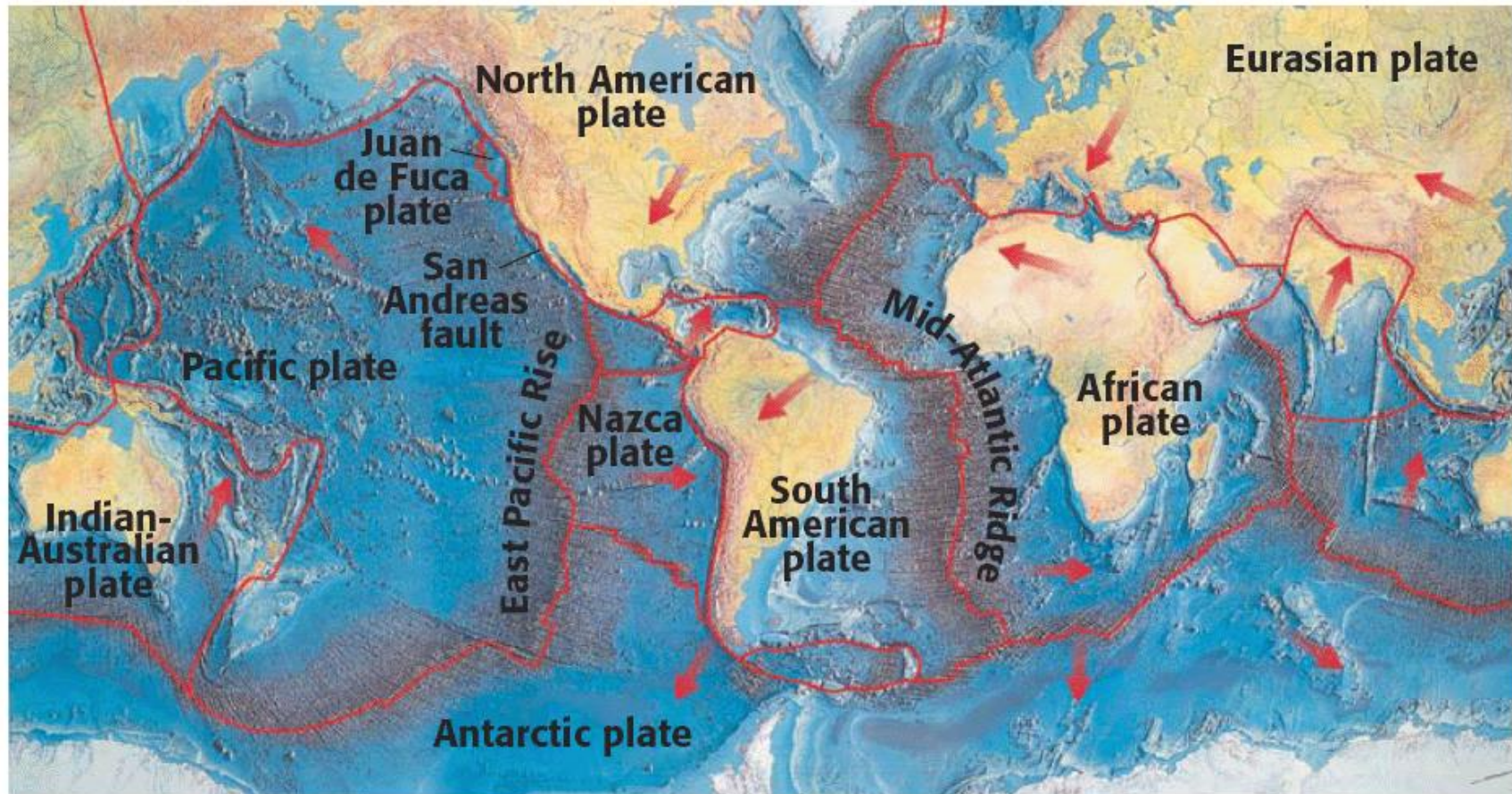


Chapter 21

Section 1 Earth's Interior and Plate Tectonics



Tectonic Plates



[Chapter menu](#)

[Resources](#)



Plate Tectonics, *continued*

- It is unknown exactly why tectonic plates move.
 - One hypothesis suggests that plate movement results from convection currents in the **asthenosphere, the hot, fluid portion of the mantle.**
 - Another hypothesis suggests that plate movement results from **the force of gravity acting on the plates.**





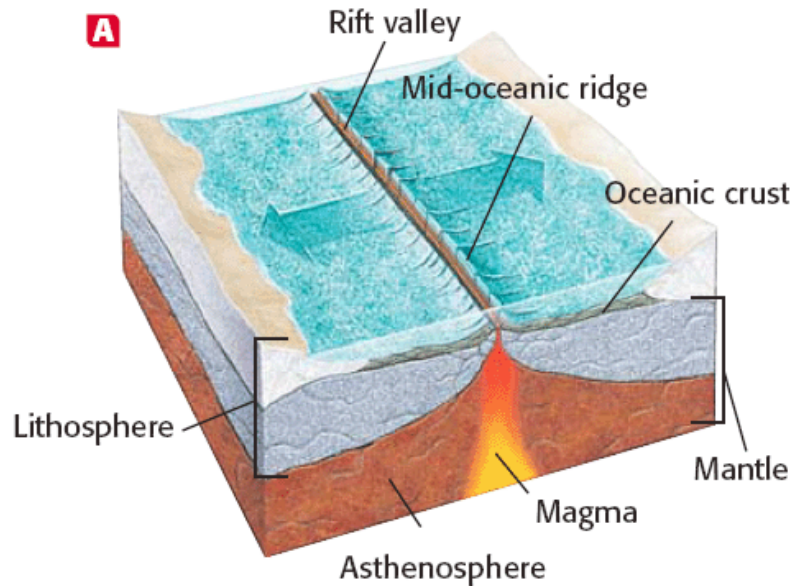
Plate Boundaries

- Mid-ocean ridges result from divergent boundaries.
 - The border between two plates is called a **boundary**.
- **Divergent boundary** a place where two plates are moving apart
- New rock forms between divergent boundaries.
- **Magma** liquid rock produced under Earth's surface

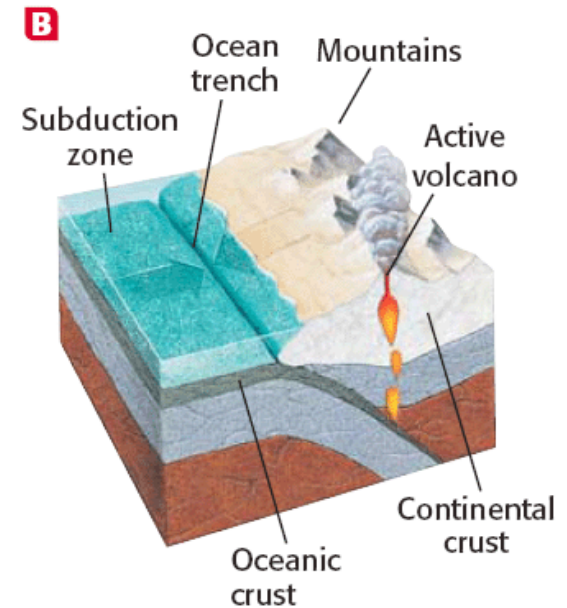




Divergent and Convergent Boundaries



A Tectonic plates move apart at divergent boundaries, forming rift valleys and mountain systems. When divergent boundaries occur in the oceanic crust they form a mid-oceanic ridge.



B Ocean trenches, volcanoes, and mountains form near the boundary where oceanic and continental plates collide.



Plate Boundaries, *continued*

- Oceanic plates dive beneath continental plates at convergent boundaries.
 - Plates slide over each other at a **convergent boundary**.
- **Subduction** the process by which one lithospheric plate moves beneath another as a result of tectonic forces
- The area where one plate slides over another is called a **subduction zone**. Subduction zones produce ocean trenches, mountains, and volcanoes.





Plate Boundaries, *continued*

- Subduction of ocean crust generates volcanoes.
 - Chains of volcanoes form on the upper plate in a subduction zone.
 - These volcanoes can form far inland from their associated oceanic trench.





Plate Boundaries, *continued*

- Colliding tectonic plates create mountains.
 - When two plates collide, mountains are formed at the boundary of the collision.
 - The Himalayas formed during the collision between the continental tectonic plate containing India and the Eurasian continental plate.

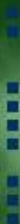




Plate Boundaries, *continued*

- Transform fault boundaries can crack Earth.
 - Plate movement can cause breaks in the lithosphere.
- **Fault** a crack in Earth created when rocks on either side of a break move
 - Plate movement at transform fault boundaries is one cause of earthquakes.





[Chapter menu](#)

[Resources](#)



[Chapter menu](#)

[Resources](#)