Plate Tectonics: Plate Boundaries

Learning Target: Evaluate evidence of the past and current movements of continental and oceanic crust and the theory of plate tectonics to explain the ages of crustal rocks.

Success Criteria:

* Identify the three general categories of plate boundaries recognized by scientists: convergent, divergent, and transform
* Compare and contrast continental and oceanic crust in terms of composition, density, patterns of ages in the crust type and typical landforms.
* Understand how Earth is dynamic and how moving plates form ocean basins, mountain ranges, islands, volcanoes, and earthquakes.

Vocabulary:

* Convergent
* Divergent
* Transform
* Subduction
* Continental crust
* Oceanic crust

Activities:

* Plate Boundary Foldable

Homework:

1. The Earth’s surface is not a solid surface but is divided into \_.
A. several oceanic plates C. continental and crustal plates
B. seven continental plates D. continental and oceanic plates
2. Convection in the upper mantle, magma injection at the divergent boundaries and gravity pulling the plates inward at subduction zones are three theorized causes of \_.
A. glacial melting C. high and low ocean tides
B. changing of the climate D. movement of the tectonic plates
3. A subduction zone occurs when an oceanic plate collides and goes beneath a continental plate. Why does the oceanic plate sub-duct and go below the continental plate?
A. oceanic plate is thicker C. continental plate is more dense
B. oceanic plate is more dense D. continental plate is made of rock
4. A \_ zone is the place where two lithospheric plates converge, one riding over the other. Most volcanoes on land occur parallel to the boundary between the two plates.
A. continental C. subduction
B. convergent D. volcano
5. Volcanoes are often formed at plate boundaries. This is a convergent plate boundary. From the choices listed, pick the correct description of what happens before the volcano forms.
A. Denser continental plate pushes oceanic plate down. Oceanic plate melts deep in the Earth and magma rises up through weak spot.
B. The less dense oceanic plate subducts under the denser continental plate and melts due to heat and pressure. Melted plate, now magma, rises up to the surface.
C .As the more dense oceanic plate subducts under the less dense continental plate the form of the less dense plate down, creating a deep zone or oceanic trench.
D. The denser oceanic plate subducts under the less dense continental plate. Subducted plate melts due to heat and friction. Melted plate, now magma, rises up to the surface.



1. The map of the world is overlaid with the boundaries of the tectonic plates. Look at the location marked with an asterisk (\*). What geologic feature would be found at the location and why?
A. rift zone; two plates move in opposite directions.
B. island arc: two oceanic plates meet at a convergent boundary.
C. mountains; two continental plates meet at a convergent boundary.
D. deep sea trench: subduction where two plates meet and one goes underneath the other.
2. Ocean trenches are formed when\_.
A. two oceanic plates slide past each other
B. an oceanic plate goes under another oceanic plate
C. two oceanic plates grind past each other along transform faults
D. two oceanic plates hit each other causing both plates to rise up.



1. What geological forces might be responsible for this range of mountains?
A. diverging tectonic plates C. erosion of the land by the ocean
B. converging tectonic plates D. deposition of sediments by the ocean
2. What is the action force responsible for seafloor spreading?
A. the destruction of ocean crust in trenches
B. the intrusive of magma forced up towards the ocean ridge
C. the force of the ocean crust sitting on the asthenosphere
D. the differences in mass of the ocean and continental plate
3. The Marianas Trench, where the Pacific Plate descends under the leading edge of the Eurasian Plate, is the deepest sea floor in the world. These ocean trenches form when two oceanic plates collide.
A. and the younger, less dense of the two plates rides over the edge of the older plate.
B. and the younger, denser of the two plates, rides over the edge of the older plate.
C. when convection currents in the mantle force the older plate downward.
D. and the plates are approximately the same age and density.
4. What process does the image represent?
A. creation of rift valleys by the divergence of tectonic plates.
B. formation of an oceanic trench by the subduction of tectonic plates.
C. convergence of tectonic plates, resulting in the creation of fold mountains.
D. spreading of new crust created by volcanic activity near a mid-ocean ridge
5. The image is an aerial photograph. What is the geological feature shown?
A. a large fault on Earth’s crust
B. the dry bed of an ancient river
C. a canyon, created by the erosion
D. sand dunes deposited by the wind