### **LESSON 3** A Moving Crust

### Lesson at a Glance

Students are introduced to plate tectonics in this lesson. In Lesson 2, they discovered that the ocean bottom is not flat when they viewed bathymetric maps showing representations of different ocean geologic features, and the geographic location of some of the most prominent underwater features. In this lesson, they learn how some of the features of the ocean bottom are formed. Students watch a demonstration, and conduct a simple experiment of their own to learn more about seamounts, ridges, trenches, and submarine canyons. They will also play a concentration game to reinforce the concepts of slow and fast processes that shape and reshape the surface of the Earth.

### **Lesson Duration**

Two 45-minute periods

### **Essential Question(s)**

How do fast and slow processes shape and reshape the geologic features of the ocean floor?

How are earthquakes and volcanoes related to ocean geology?

### **Key Concepts**

- The Earth's crust is made of approximately a dozen large tectonic plates and numerous smaller plates.
- Tectonic plates move slowly on top of hot flowing magma.
- In other locations where these plates move away from each other (divergent), hot molten magma rises, forming ridges.
- In instances where plates meet (convergent), many things may happen: deep trenches form, volcanic activity, earthquakes, and some of the world's largest mountain peaks, longest mountain chains, and deepest rift valleys are formed.

### **Instructional Objectives**

- I can describe how slow and fast processes in the Earth's crust shape and reshape the surfaces of the Earth.
- I can explain how earthquakes and volcanoes relate to ocean geology.
- I can use symbols to label underwater geographic features on my world map.

### Related HCPSIII Benchmark(s):

Science: SC 4.8.1 Describe how slow processes sometimes shape and reshape the surface of the Earth.

Science: SC 4.8.2 Describe how fast processes (e.g., volcanoes, earthquakes) sometimes shape and reshape the surface of the Earth.



### **Assessment Tools**

### **Benchmark Rubric:**

Topic		Forces that Shape the Earth				
Benchmark SC.4.8.1		Describe how slow processes sometimes shape				
<b>Benchmark SC.4.8.1</b>		and reshape the surface of the Earth				
Rubric		<u>-</u>				
Advanced	Proficient		Novice			
Use evidence to explain	Describe how the	Provide examples	Recognize that the			
how slow processes	shaping and reshaping	of the shaping and	shaping and reshaping			
have shaped and	of the Earth's land	reshaping of the Earth's	of the Earth's land			
reshaped the surface of	surface is sometimes	land surface due to	surface is sometimes			
the Earth	due to slow processes	slow processes	due to slow processes			

Topic		Forces that Shape the Earth				
•		Describe how fast processes (e.g., volcanoes,				
Benchmark <u>SC.4.8.2</u>		earthquakes) sometimes shape and reshape the				
		surface of the Earth				
Rubric						
Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Novice			
Use evidence to explain	Describe how the	Provide examples	Recognize that the			
how fast processes	shaping and reshaping	of the shaping and	shaping and reshaping			
have shaped and	of the Earth's land	reshaping of the Earth's	of the Earth's land			
reshaped the surface of	surface is sometimes	land surface due to fast	surface is sometimes			
the Earth	due to fast processes	processes	due to fast processes			

### **Assessment/Evidence Pieces**

• Student Worksheet: A Moving Crust

### **Materials Needed**

Teacher	Class	Group	Student
<ul> <li>Overhead projector</li> <li>Cutout of tectonic plates</li> <li>Scissors</li> <li>1 set of tangrams or use pattern provided</li> <li>1 can of shaving cream (no gel)</li> <li>Safety goggles</li> </ul>	None	<ul> <li>Transparency cutouts of Earth's plates (triangles to represent plates)</li> <li>Shaving cream (1 can per four students)</li> <li>Sponges and paper towels for cleaning</li> <li>Drawing paper, drawing supplies</li> <li>World map, safety goggles, large plastic plates or trays, waxed paper or Saran Wrap to protect desk surfaces</li> <li>One set of A Moving Crust Concentration Game</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Student Worksheet: Student Vocabulary</li> <li>Student Worksheet: A Moving Crust</li> <li>Student Worksheet: Moving Crust Crossword Puzzle (Enrichment Activity)</li> <li>Student Worksheets: Divergent and Convergent Plates Enrichment Activity</li> </ul>

### **Instructional Resources**

PowerPoint Presentation: Plate Tectonics

PowerPoint Presentation: Geologic History of a Volcano in the Pacific

PowerPoint Presentation: Plate Boundaries Around the World

Teacher Reading: The Earth's Plates – 2 copies- one copy on paper and one copy on a transparency for

overhead demonstration. Or cut triangles from the transparency for the demonstration.

Student Reading: Plate Tectonics

Student Worksheet: Student Vocabulary

Student Worksheet: A Moving Crust Pre-Assessment
Student Worksheet: A Moving Crust Post-Assessment
Student Worksheet: A Moving Crust Concentration Game
Student Worksheet: Moving Crust Crossword Puzzle
Teacher Answer Key: Moving Crust Crossword Puzzle

Student Worksheet: Divergent and Convergent Plates Activity Seafloor Spreading-Divergent Plates
Teacher Answer Key: Divergent and Convergent Plates Activity Seafloor Spreading-Divergent Plates

Student Worksheet: *Divergent and Convergent Plates Activity Subduction-Convergent Plates*Teacher Answer Key: *Divergent and Convergent Plates Activity Subduction-Convergent Plates* 

Supplemental Resource: Ocean Geography and Geology Interactive Game

### **Student Vocabulary Words**

**abyss**: the bottom of the deep ocean below the continental shelf, usually deeper than 13,000 feet (4,000 meters). **abyssal plain:** the nearly flat portion of deep-ocean floor. About 75 percent of the deep ocean is abyssal plain. **basalt:** a type of tough volcanic rock that makes up most of the ocean's basins, mid-ocean ridges, and plates. **convergent plate movement:** when two plates collide (at a convergent plate boundary), some crust is destroyed in the impact, and the plates become smaller. The results differ, depending upon what types of plates are involved. **divergent plate movement:** seafloor spreading is the movement of two oceanic plates away from each other (at a divergent plate boundary), which results in the formation of new oceanic crust (from magma that comes from within the Earth's mantle) along a mid-ocean ridge.

magma: molten, mobile, rock material, deep under the Earth's crust.

**mid-ocean ridge**: a chain of undersea mountains in every ocean that circles the Earth like the seam of a baseball for nearly 37,000 miles (59,545 kilometers).

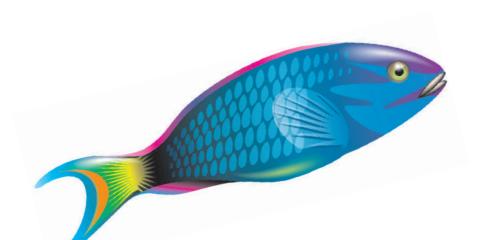
**mantle**: the zone within the Earth, from below the crust to the core, made up of semi-molten rock upon which the Earth's tectonic plates float.

**plates**: huge, mobile rock slabs of varying sizes and thickness that form the Earth's crust.

rift: an opening or fissure. In geology, a large rift is caused mainly by lateral movement.

**seamount:** an isolated volcanic peak that rises at least 3,280 feet (1,000 meters) from the seafloor.

**tectonics**: a study of the building and changing of the Earth's crust.



### **Lesson Plan**

### Lesson Preparation

- Review the Science Background provided in the Unit's Overview and the Teacher Reading.
- Prepare copies of the Student Worksheets.
- Copy the vocabulary onto chart paper. Include a picture/diagram, where appropriate, next to the vocabulary word. You may choose to photocopy the Student Vocabulary included in this lesson.
- Have a copy of Teacher Reading: *The Earth's Plates* and scissors to cut them. Make sure that you have an overhead projector handy and enough shaving cream (not the gel kind) for each group of students. (Approximately one can for every four students.)
- Cut triangles from transparencies to represent the Earth's plates for the groups.
- Prepare cards for *A Moving Crust Concentration Game*. Reprint, laminate and cut game cards, one set for each group of 4 to 5 students.
- Preview PowerPoints *Plate Tectonics, Geologic History of a Volcano in the Pacific* and *Plate Boundaries Around the World*. Make arrangements to project them.
- Preview the interactive piece Ocean Geography and Geology to be completed at the of Step V.

### I. Introducing the Lesson

Begin the lesson by distributing a copy of the Student Worksheet for lesson 3, A *Moving Crust*, and asking the students to write, or draw, how they think the underwater mountain ranges were formed. As they finish writing their predictions, distribute the student vocabulary terms, or have students write them down.

### II. Teacher Demonstration with Overhead Projector

- A. Explain to students that the Earth is not one solid ball. The Earth is comprised of plates of rock of various sizes that make up the Earth's crust. Show PowerPoint "Plate Boundaries Around the World." Leave the PowerPoint up on the screen as a point of reference as you continue this portion of the lesson. The Mid-Ocean Ridge they marked on their world map in the previous lesson marks one of these plate boundaries. The plates float above hot liquid magma, whose heat makes them come together (convergent), move apart (divergent), and slide past each other (transformed). Sometimes, the plates come together until one plate sinks under the other to be recycled in the magma; both deep ocean trenches and high mountains are formed in the process.
- B. Explain to the students that the movement of the plates are considered slow processes overall. However, an earthquake or volcanic eruption is considered a fast process when it happens.
- C. Show the PowerPoint *Plate Tectonics* to the students. Hand out copies of the *Divergent and Convergent Plates Activity* sheets to each student. Have them fill in the sheets as they view the PowerPoint.
- D. Hold up a transparency copy (preferably color) of Teacher Resource: *The Earth's Plates*.
- E. Cut the plates apart and lay them on the overhead.
- F. Discuss ocean spreading and *divergent plates* move the North American and Eurasian divergent plate away from each other. Explain that, when this happens, magma rises up, forming new ocean floor and mid-ocean ridges.
- G. Next, slide the Pacific Plate and the North American plate laterally (transformed boundaries). This represents the San Andreas Fault, a geological fault line that moves in a northwest–southeast direction through the state of California.
- H. To represent a convergent plate, show the Pacific Plate moving under the Philippine Sea Plate. This convergence will cause deep trenches, such as the Mariana Trench.

### III. Student Activity-Tectonic Plates and Shaving Cream

(Comment to teacher: This could be done as a teacher demo instead of student activity.)

- A. Have students split into pairs and clear their desk surface.
- B. Distribute two triangles from the transparency cut outs set to each group.
- C. Circulate around room, squirting ½ can shaving cream onto each group's desk; explain that below the Earth's crust is magma, or molten lava. The shaving cream represents the magma.
- D. Have students lay their two triangles from the transparency cut outs on top of the shaving cream so that they form a square.
- E. Ask students to, very *slowly*, push down and gently pull the two triangles apart to represent divergent plates.
  - What did you see happening as the plates moved apart? (shaving cream filled up in between, making a ridge.)

- F. Next, have students scrape their shaving cream into a clean pile to work with again. Place the transparency cut out triangles back on top to form a square. This time, have students push one of the triangles down and under the other.
  - What did you see happening when your plates converged, or slid underneath one another? (A small ridge and trench formed.)
- G. Engage students in a short debate to discuss whether these are fast or slow processes. (It is relative)
- H. Using a sponge, paper towels, and clean water, have students wash their desks clean. Shaving cream is a good cleaning agent.

### IV. Volcanoes PowerPoint and Student Activity-Modeling Origins of Seamounts using Shaving Cream

- A. Explain to students that the Hawaiian Archipelago was formed by a hot spot. Most hot spots are located along divergent plate boundaries with a few at the mid ocean ridge and some away from plate boundaries. The most notable hot spot is found beneath the Big Island. As the plates move away from the hot spot, new islands are formed. The farther away from the hot spot, the older the island. Coral reefs form around these islands as they settle and erode and become seamounts.
- B. Show students the Geologic History of a Volcano in the Pacific PowerPoint. Have students take notes.
- C. Teacher Demonstration: Origins of Seamounts
- D. Make, or purchase, a framed window screen and one can of shaving cream
  - 1. Review the concept of plate tectonics. Make sure that students understand the different volcanic activities: slow, oozing lava at seafloor spreading ridges, and active volcanoes (seamounts) at hot spots or subduction zones
  - 2. Demonstrate how volcanic eruptions at a hot spot produced the Hawaiian Islands archipelago. Procedures:
    - a. Invite two students to come up front and hold the screen, which represents the *plate*.
    - b. Holding the shaving cream can under the screen, gently squirt a small amount of foam out as the students move the screen very slowly over the shaving cream can.
    - c. As the screen moves over the can, small mounds (seamounts) will form on top of the screen. Make 4–6 mounds to show how a chain of seamounts is formed.
    - d. Discuss with students whether volcanic activity is a fast or slow process.

### V. A Moving Crust Concentration Game

- A. The concentration game reinforces students understanding of slow and fast processes that sometimes shape and reshape the surface of the Earth. Students will match the information on a card with its example.
- B. Students could create more information cards and examples to add to the collection of game cards. Keep in mind that a process that is considered as a fast process, may take thousands of years. The seamount, *Lōʻihi*, will take thousands of years before it surfaces as an island, however, eruptions at its surface underwater are constantly reshaping the surface of the Earth. Therefore, volcanoes and hot spots are fast processes.
- C. If time permits have students work in pairs on the computer using the *Ocean Geography and Geology Interactive Game* to reinforce learning.

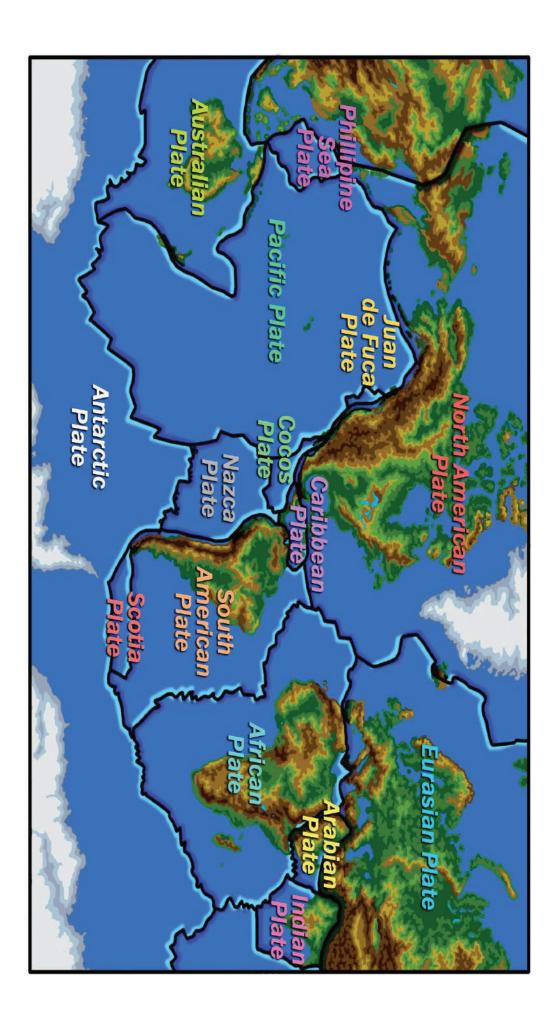
### VI. Pre/Post Assessment

- A. As a Post Assessment, have students draw pictures to match the definition of divergent and convergent plates on page 2 of their worksheet, *A Moving Crust*. Also, have the students write a brief description on the lines at the bottom of their pictures. (LA.3.1.3)
- B. As students complete their drawings, they may work on coloring and labeling their world map in their portfolio from previous lessons.

### **Extended Activities**

Students review terms and definitions by completing the crossword puzzle in class or as homework.

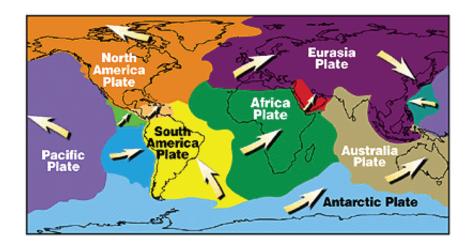
# Teacher Reading: The Earth's Plates: Blow up to full page, cut apart the major plates for demonstration III. C



### **LESSON 3** Student Reading

### **Plate Tectonics**

The term **plate tectonics** refers to how the Earth's surface is made up of plates. In geology, a **plate** is a large slab of rock, while **tectonics** is a word of Greek origin meaning *to* **build**. According to this theory, the Earth's crust is made up of plates on which the continents and ocean rests. These plates are continually shifting because the surface beneath them — the hot, soft mantle — is moving slowly like a conveyor belt, driven by heat and other forces at work in the Earth's core. The plates are moving approximately 1 centimeter (0.5 inches) to 15 centimeters (6 inches) per year in different directions. This map shows the major tectonic plates that make up the Earth's crust and the directions in which they are moving.



Map adapted from NOAA

### Vents, Volcanoes, and Earthquakes

The Earth's tectonic plates can move apart, collide, or slide past each other. The Mid-Ocean Ridge system — the Earth's underwater mountain range — arises where the plates are moving apart. As the plates move apart, the seafloor cracks. Cold seawater seeps down into these cracks, becomes super-heated by magma, and then bursts back out into the ocean, forming hydrothermal vents. As the plates move farther apart, magma from the Earth's mantle fills the gap, sometime leading to the eruption of undersea volcanoes. This process, called **seafloor spreading**, is how new seafloor is formed.

Conversely, when tectonic plates meet at a **convergent boundary**, the force causes Earthquakes, mountains to rise, and deep trenches to form. When the edge of one plate is forced under another — a process called **subduction** — the crust of the sinking plate is destroyed as it remelts in the hot mantle. When the edges of one plate slides past another plate — along a **transform boundary** — crust is neither created nor destroyed. The current continental and oceanic plates include: the Eurasian Plate, Australian-Indian Plate, Philippine Plate, Pacific Plate, Juan de Fuca Plate, Nazca Plate, Cocos Plate, North American Plate, Caribbean Plate, South American Plate, African Plate, Arabian Plate, the Antarctic Plate, and the Scotia Plate. These plates consist of smaller sub-plates.

### **LESSON 3** Student Vocabulary

abyss: the bottom of the deep ocean below the continental shelf, usually deeper than 13,000 feet (4,000 meters).

abyssal plain: the nearly flat portion of deep-ocean floor. About 75 percent of the deep ocean is abyssal plain.

**basalt:** a type of tough volcanic rock that makes up most of the ocean's basins, mid-ocean ridges, and plates.

**convergent plate movement:** when two plates collide (at a convergent plate boundary), some crust is destroyed in the impact, and the plates become smaller. The results differ, depending upon what types of plates are involved.

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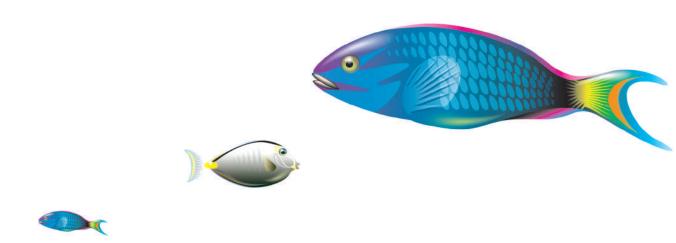
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**tectonics:** a study of the building and changing of the Earth's crust.



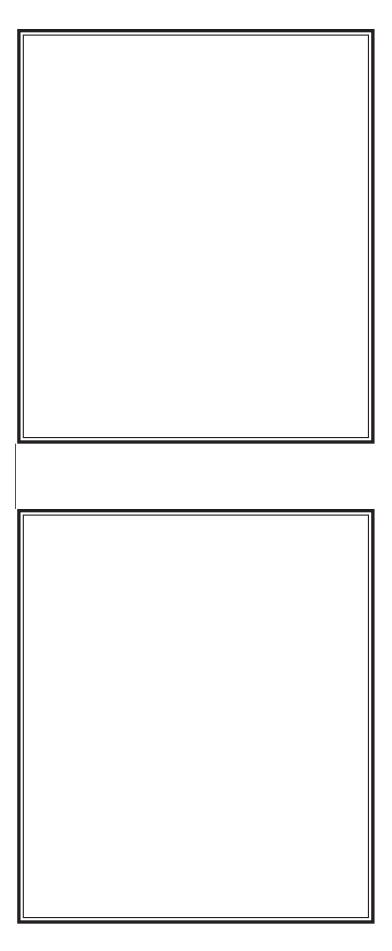
### LESSON 3 A Moving Crust Pre-Assessment

Name:	_ Date:
Question: What might be some ways tectonic plates move? What do you think	k happens when tectonic plates move?
North American Plate  Plate  Garibbean Plate  Plate  Coros Plate  Australian Plate  Antarctic Plate  Antarctic Plate  Antarctic Plate	E - Zu
I think that this is what happens when tectonic plates move	

# **LESSON 3** A Moving Crust - Post Assessment

*Directions:* Draw a picture to illustrate each term:

1. Convergent plate boundary (plates meet) 2. Divergent plate boundary (plates pull apart)



Are convergent and divergent plate movements a fast or slow process and why?

## G**4** U**8** L**3 LESSON 3** A Moving Crust Concentration Game

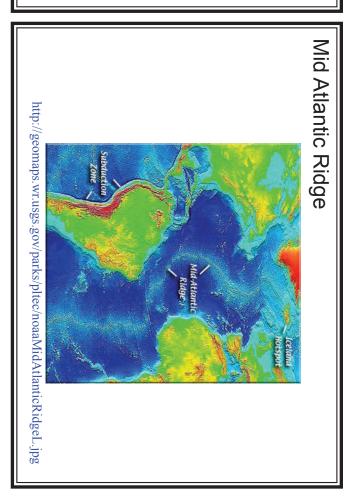
Directions: Reprint, laminate, and cut game cards, one set for each group of 4 to 5 students. Match the information on a card with its example.

dunes found at Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado. process. An example of this are the Erosion caused by the wind is a slow



Colorado River in Northern Arizona. is the **Grand Canyon** formed by the process. An excellent example of this

boundaries are called divergent When two plates pull apart their Plate movements are slow processes Erosion caused by water is a slow



boundaries. At these boundaries

Mid Atlantic Ridge.

An excellent example of this is the

magma pours out to form ridges.

under the plate with less mass convergent boundaries. plate with the greater mass sinks When two plates come together the Trenches are formed at these Plate movements are slow processes

An example is the Marianas Trench.

## Marianas Trench

http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/image/marianas.html

## Himalayas

5mm each year.

the **Himalayas**, which continues to rise

crushed into the Eurasian Plate forming

form fold mountains. The India Plate

When plates converge they sometimes

Plate movements are slow processes.

http://www.free-slideshow.com/stock-photos/nepal/nepal-austere-himalayas.jpg

Plate movements are slow processes When plates slide by each other laterally they are called transform boundaries.

An excellent example of this is the **San Andreas Fault,** which runs through California.

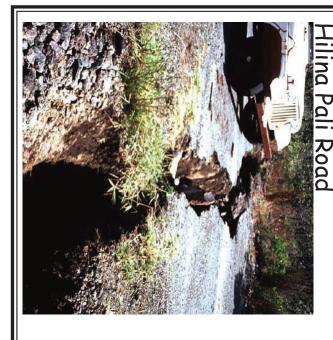


Volcanic eruptions are fast processes. They can quickly reshape the surface of the Earth. An example is the eruption of **Mt. St. Helens**.





Earthquakes are fast processes.
They can quickly reshape the surface of the Earth. An example of cracks caused by a M7.2 Earthquake at the Hilina Pali Road in Hawai'i
Volcanoes National Park, 11/29/75.



http://hvo.wr.usgs.gov

Although erosion is a slow process, erosion caused by ocean waves can sometimes happen quickly.

An example is the sea arches that formed where lava entered the sea and the waves carved cliff and sea arches.

Sea Arches along the Puna coast of the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.



Sea Arches
- Puna Coast
of the Hawai'i
Volcanoes
National Park

nttp://www.ngdc.noaa.gov

# **LESSON 3** Moving Crust Crossword Puzzle

Name: Date:

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				7			
					6		
	11						
							9
							10
					12		

- ACROSS

  1. A mountain peak on the ocean floor that does not reach the surface of the water.
- The bottom or floor of the ocean.
- The study of the structure of the Earth's surface.
- The bottom of the deep ocean below the continental shelf, usually deeper than 13,000 feet (4,000 meters)
- 7. The layer of the Earth between the crust and the core.
- A mid-ocean chain of undersea mountains that circle the Earth like the seam of a baseball.
- Huge rock slabs that form the Earth's crust.

### DOWN

- Plate movement when two plates move toward each other.
- 6. Hot molten rock deep below the Earth's surface.
- A crack in the Earth's surface between two divergent plates.
   Plate movement when two plates move
- 12. A type of tough volcanic rock that makes up most of the ocean's basins, mid-ocean ridges, and plates.

away from each other.

## **LESSON 3** Moving Crust Crossword Puzzle **Teacher Answer Key**

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S				Α	M	G	Α	$N_{g}$		Α
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		S								Ш
			Т	L	Α	S	Α	<sup>12</sup> В		

### **ACROSS**

- A mountain peak on the ocean floor that does not reach the surface of the water.
- The bottom or floor of the ocean.
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  The bottom of the deep ocean below the
- The bottom of the deep ocean below the continental shelf, usually deeper than 13,000 feet (4,000 meters)
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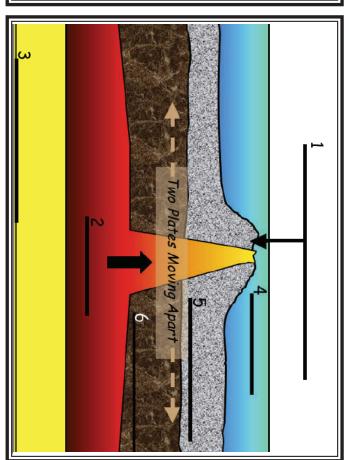
## **LESSON 3** Divergent and Convergent Plates Activity Seafloor Spreading **Divergent Plates**

**Directions:** Read the definitions and label the diagram of the seafloor.

lower mantle (semi-rigid) – the deepest parts of the mantle, just above the core
 magma – molten rock within the Earth's mantle.
 In the seafloor spreading, magma moves up to the crust

ocean – large bodies of water sitting atop the ocean's crust
 oceanic crust – thin parts of the Earth's crust located under the oceans

oceanic ridge – mountain range where Earth's tectonic plates are gradually moving apart upper mantle (rigid) – the uppermost part of the mantle, part of the lithosphere



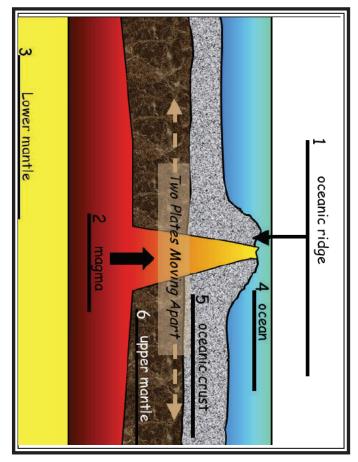
## **LESSON 3** Divergent and Convergent **Plates Activity Seafloor Spreading** Divergent Plates - Teacher Answer Key

**Directions:** Read the definitions and label the diagram of the seafloor.

Name:

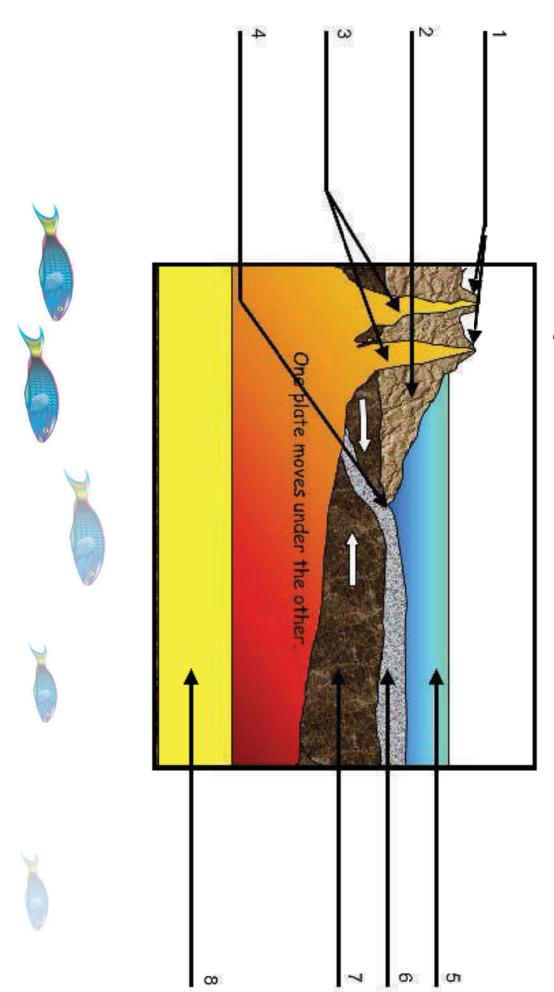
Date:

lower mantle (semi-rigid) – the deepest parts of the mantle, just above the core magma – molten rock within the Earth's mantle. In the seafloor spreading, magma moves up to the crust ocean – large bodies of water sitting atop the ocean's crust ocean's crust located under the oceans oceanic ridge – mountain range where Earth's tectonic plates are gradually moving apart upper mantle (rigid) – the uppermost part of the mantle, part of the lithosphere



# **LESSON 3** Divergent and Convergent Plates Activity Subduction **Convergent Plates**

**Directions:** Read the definitions and label the diagram of the seafloor.



### Subduction – Convergent Plates Lesson 3

## diagram of the convergent plates Read the definitions and use them to label the

- Earth's crust not located under the ocean Continental crust – thick layers of the
- Ņ mantle **Lower mantle –** the deepest parts of the
- ယ crust that moves from the asthenosphere to the **Magma –** molten rock in the Earth's mantle
- 4 the oceanic crust Ocean – large bodies of water sitting on
- ĊJ Oceanic crust – thin layers of the crust under the ocean
- တ another plate Subduction zone – the place where one part of the Earth's crust is pushed under
- **Upper mantle –** the top part of the mantle
- <u>%</u> .7 where magma erupt **Volcanoes –** places in the Earth's surface

### Subduction – Convergent Plates Lesson 3

## diagram of the convergent plates Read the definitions and use them to label the

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- another plate part of the Earth's crust is pushed under Subduction zone – the place where one

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under the ocean

- **∞** .7 **Upper mantle –** the top part of the mantle
- where magma erupt **Volcanoes -** places in the Earth's surface

# **LESSON 3** Divergent and Convergent Plates Activity Subduction **Convergent Plates - Teacher Answer Key**

Name: Date:

**Directions:** Read the definitions and label the diagram of the convergent plates.

