

Tectonic Plate Theory

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A long time ago, all the continents were together in a supercontinent. Alfred Wegner named it Pangaea. Slowly, the tectonic plates moved apart, creating the continents of today. The evidence of Pangaea can be found in fossils.

Tectonic plates are huge pieces of land that are located on the crust. These pieces make up the Earth's surface and move around. They make mountains and earthquakes.

Tectonic Plate Theory is important because it helps us understand how the Earth's surface changes and how natural disasters happen.

Tectonic plates move because of a cyclical loop that happens in the mantle. These are called convection currents of the Earth. Hot magma rises up towards the surface and goes back down as it cools.

Tectonic plates move very slowly. The place where two plates meet is called a plate boundary. At divergent boundaries, plates move apart and usually form new crusts in the ocean. At convergent boundaries, plates crash, creating mountains and volcanic eruptions. Transform boundaries cause earthquakes when plates slide past each other.

