Name:
Date:
Period:

# Types of Plate Tectonics

*Anwser the following questions in complete sentences.*

1. How many types of plate tectonics are there?

2. What are plate tectonics?

3. What can plate tectonics cause?

4. When does Divergent Plate Tectonics occur?

5. When does Convergent Plate Tectonics occur?

6. When does Transform Plate Tectonics occur?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name:
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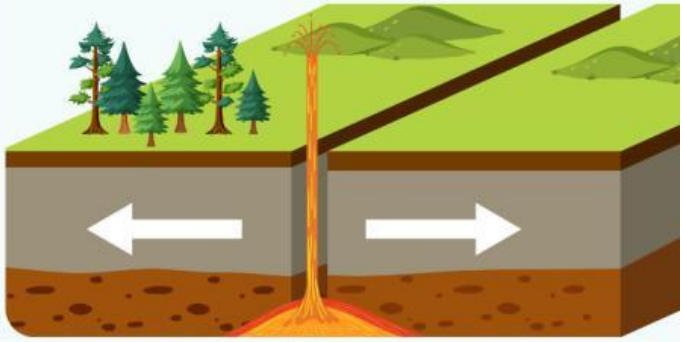
Period:

# TYPES OF PLATE TECTONICS

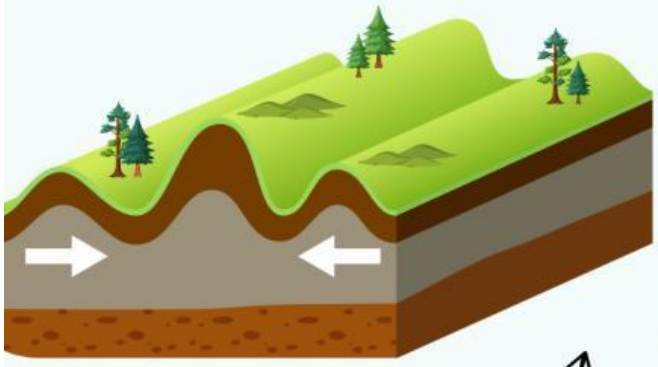
## What are Plate Tectonics?

Plate tectonics is the idea that the Earth's surface is made of big pieces called plates. These plates are like giant puzzle pieces that float on a layer of rock beneath them called the mantle. These plates are always moving very slowly. When they bump into each other, move apart, or slide past, it can cause earthquakes, volcanoes, or mountains to form. Over time, this movement has shaped the Earth's continents and oceans.



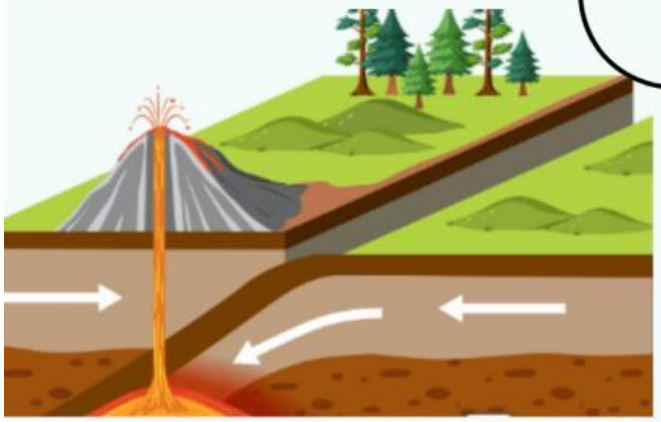
## Divergent Plate Tectonics

Divergent plate tectonics occur when two plates move apart from each other. As they separate, new material from inside the Earth can rise up and fill the space, forming new crust. This usually happens under the ocean, creating underwater mountain ranges. It can also happen on land, forming valleys.



## Convergent Plate Tectonics

Convergent plate tectonics occur when two plates move toward each other. When they crash into each other, one plate might slide beneath the other in a process called subduction. This can lead to the formation of mountains, earthquakes, and even volcanoes. Sometimes, both plates push up, creating large mountain ranges.



## Transform Plate Tectonics

Transform plate tectonics happen when two plates slide past each other horizontally. Instead of moving toward or away from each other, the plates grind along side by side. This can cause earthquakes because of the pressure that builds up as the plates move. A famous example is the San Andreas Fault in California.

LIVEWORKSHEETS