

Complete the text with ONE word that fits into each gap.

The Ring of Fire refers (1) _____ a gigantic chain of volcanoes around the Pacific Ocean. It stretches (2) _____ New Zealand to Asia and across the ocean to Alaska. From there, it continues along the western coast of North and South America down to the southern tip of Chile. The Ring of Fire is based on the fact that continents do (3) _____ stay in the same position and float around the surface of the earth.

According to plate tectonics, the earth's surface (4) _____ of a number of enormous plates or sections of rock, (5) _____ are about 80 km thick. These plates move (6) _____ speeds of up to a 10 cm (7) _____ year. In the middle of the Pacific Ocean hot liquid rock, called magma, flows from the (8) _____ part of the earth up to the ocean floor. This new material pushes older material away and causes plates to move.

As plates move away from and (9) _____ each other they collide. In some cases, one plate may move under another plate and lead to a process (10) _____ subduction. This is the cause of frequent earthquakes at the boundaries of plates. (11) _____ addition, the bottom plate melts (12) _____ to extreme temperatures and the magma created in such a process can move through vents to the Earth's (13) _____ and produce volcanic activity.