

Chapter 9 Plate Tectonics**Section 9.2 Plate Tectonics**

This section discusses plate tectonics, including lithospheric plates and types of plate boundaries.



Reading Strategy

Comparing and Contrasting After you read, compare the three types of plate boundaries by completing the table. For more information on this Reading Strategy, see the **Reading and Study Skills** in the **Skills and Reference Handbook** at the end of your textbook.

| Boundary Type | Relative Plate Motion |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| convergent | a. |
| divergent | b. |
| transform fault | c. |

Earth's Major Plates

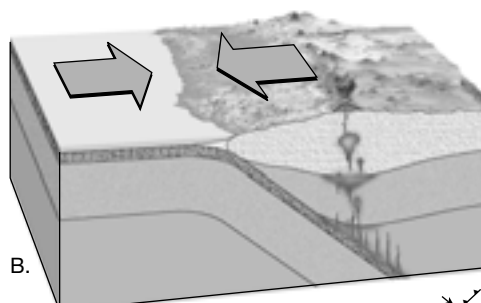
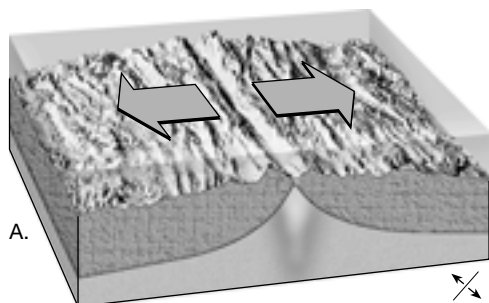
Match each definition with its term.

- | Definition | Term |
|---|--------------------|
| _____ 1. weaker region in the mantle over which Earth's outer shell lies | a. lithosphere |
| _____ 2. segments of the lithosphere that move and change shape | b. plates |
| _____ 3.  rigid layer of the uppermost mantle and crust | c. plate tectonics |
| _____ 4.  theory that states that the lithosphere is divided into plates that move | d. asthenosphere |
| 5. Earth's largest plate is the _____ plate. | |
| 6. What is one way in which the continental drift hypothesis and the plate tectonic theory differ? _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| 7. Circle the letter of the number of major plates there are on Earth. | |
| a. 3 | b. 7 |
| c. 8 | d. 10 |
| 8. Is the following sentence true or false? The lithospheric plates move at about 5 km per year. _____ | |

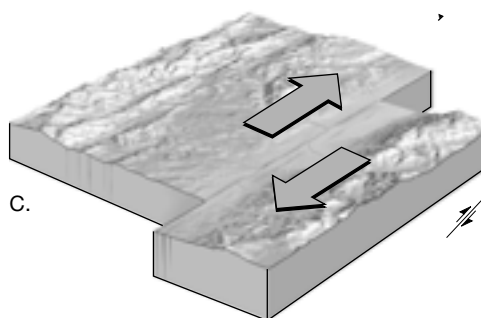
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Types of Plate Boundaries

9.  Identify each type of plate boundary shown in the figure.



- A. _____
B. _____
C. _____



10. Circle the letter of the type of plate boundary that occurs when a plate of oceanic lithosphere plunges beneath an overriding plate of continental crust.
- divergent
 - spreading center
 - convergent
 - transform fault
11. Circle the letter of the type of plate boundary that occurs when a plate of continental crust grinds past another plate of continental crust.
- divergent
 - spreading center
 - convergent
 - transform fault
12. Is the following sentence true or false? Each of Earth's plates contains only one of the three types of plate boundaries.

13. Is the following sentence true or false? Plates shrink and grow in area. _____
14. The East African Rift valley is an example of what kind of plate boundary? _____
15. The San Andreas Fault zone in California is an example of what kind of plate boundary? _____