Name _____

Cracking the Code: How Do We Know Earth's Plates Are Moving?

Short Answer Key

1. Seismographs help scientists record and map earthquake activity, which occurs along plate boundaries, providing evidence of plate movement.
2. Matching coastlines suggest that continents were once part of a larger landmass that has since separated due to plate movement.
3. Seafloor spreading is the process where new oceanic crust forms at mid-ocean ridges and spreads outward. This process is related to plate tectonics as it indicates the movement of tectonic plates.
4. The magnetic alignment in volcanic rocks on the ocean floor helps scientists understand the history of Earth's magnetic field and supports the concept of seafloor spreading.
5. Identical fossils found on separate continents suggest that these continents were once connected, and their movement supports plate tectonics.

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