

Name _____

Plate Tectonic Boundaries: Where Earth's Puzzle Pieces Meet

Short Answer Key

1. Divergent boundaries create underwater mountain ranges (mid-ocean ridges) and can result in earthquakes and volcanic activity.
2. Subduction zones form at convergent boundaries when one tectonic plate sinks beneath another. This process leads to the creation of deep ocean trenches, volcanic arcs, and powerful earthquakes.
3. At transform boundaries, tectonic plates slide past each other horizontally, causing earthquakes. There is no creation or destruction of crust at transform boundaries.
4. Continental crust forms the Earth's landmasses and is thicker and less dense than oceanic crust, which lies beneath the oceans. These differences in density and composition influence their behavior at plate boundaries.
5. Plate boundaries are the driving force behind geological phenomena like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, the formation of mountain ranges, and the widening of oceans, ultimately shaping the Earth's surface over geological time.

