

Name _____

Continental Jigsaw: The Story of Plate Tectonics

Short Answer Key

1. (Answers may vary but could include any of the evidence mentioned in the passage, such as fossils, fit of the continents, rock layers, earthquake and volcano distribution, or paleoclimatic evidence.)
2. Convergent Boundary; Example: The Himalayan Mountains.
3. A divergent boundary is where tectonic plates move away from each other. An example is the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the Eurasian Plate and the North American Plate are moving apart, creating new oceanic crust.
4. The theory of plate tectonics has revolutionized our understanding of Earth's history by explaining how continents have shifted and transformed over geological time. It also helps us predict and understand geological phenomena such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain formation.
5. The study of plate tectonics is crucial for understanding natural disasters because it provides insights into the movement and interactions of tectonic plates. This knowledge can help scientists predict areas at risk of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis, allowing for better preparedness and mitigation measures.

