



Plate Tectonics: Student Activity Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Plate Tectonics:

1. The puzzle pieces represent _____.
2. What do you notice about where some of the Earth's mountain ranges and ridges?

Moving Plates:

1. Find the **Pacific Plate** and the **North American Plate**. Slide the Pacific Plate north and the North American Plate south.

What happens to the edges where the plates grind together? _____

2. Find the **South American** and **African Plates**. These two plates are moving apart in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Move these two plates slightly apart.

What is happening to the far sides of these plates? _____

3. Find the **Nazca Plate** and the **South American Plate**. Slide the Nazca Plate under the South American Plate.

What happens to the South American Plate? _____

4. Find the **Eurasian Plate** and the **Indo-Australian Plate**. These two plates collide without one plate sliding under the other. Both plates push each other up to form the Himalaya Mountains. Push the edges of the two puzzle pieces together without one sliding under the other.

What happens? _____

Reflection/Discussion:

1. Describe the crust of the Earth. What do we know about its structure? _____

2. How would you describe the motion of the plates? _____

3. What causes the plates to move? _____

4. What are the ways that the plates interact with each other? _____

5. How does interaction between plates relate to locations of volcanoes and earthquakes? _____
