

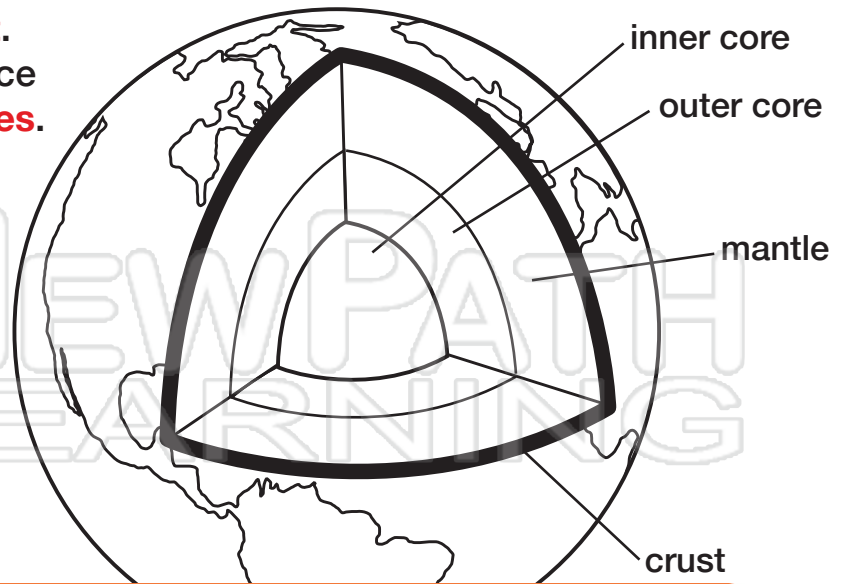


# Plate Tectonics

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Earth's outermost layer is the **crust**. The crust moves over Earth's surface in large pieces called **tectonic plates**.

Tectonic plates are constructed in layers with **crust** on the top and a piece of the solid upper **mantle** below. Geologists call this combination of crust and upper mantle the **lithosphere**.



**PREVIEW**

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There are two different types of crust. **Basaltic oceanic** crust pours out from the **mantle** and is found under the oceans. It is the denser of the two types of crust, but it is also the thinner of the two. The second type of crust is **continental crust**.



# Plate Tectonics

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

According to the **theory of plate tectonics**, the plates are in constant motion, traveling a few centimeters per year. The edges of tectonic plates, where they move against each other, are sites of intense geologic activity, such as **earthquakes**, **volcanoes** and **mountain building**.



1. Pacific plate
2. North American plate
3. Cocos plate
4. Nazca plate
5. South American plate
6. African plate
7. Eurasian plate
8. Indian plate
9. Australian plate
10. Antarctic plate

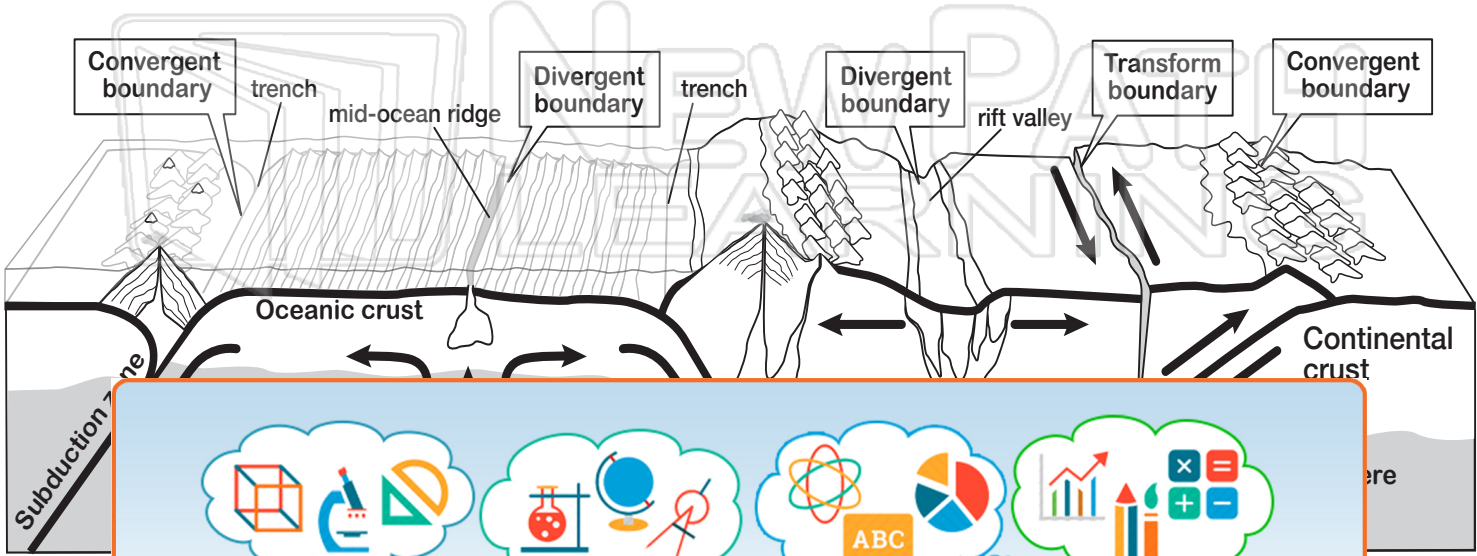


# Plate Tectonics

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Tectonic Plate Boundaries

The three types of plate boundaries – **convergent**, **divergent** and **transform** – are found at the edge of the **lithospheric plates** and are characterized by their distinct motions.



PREVIEW

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**Divergent**  
At this boundary, plates move apart. A crack or rift valley forms in the crust.

**Convergent**  
At this boundary, plates converge. This involves the collision of plates.

move  
a  
es of

between two oceanic plates, or between two continental plates.

### Conservative or transform boundary

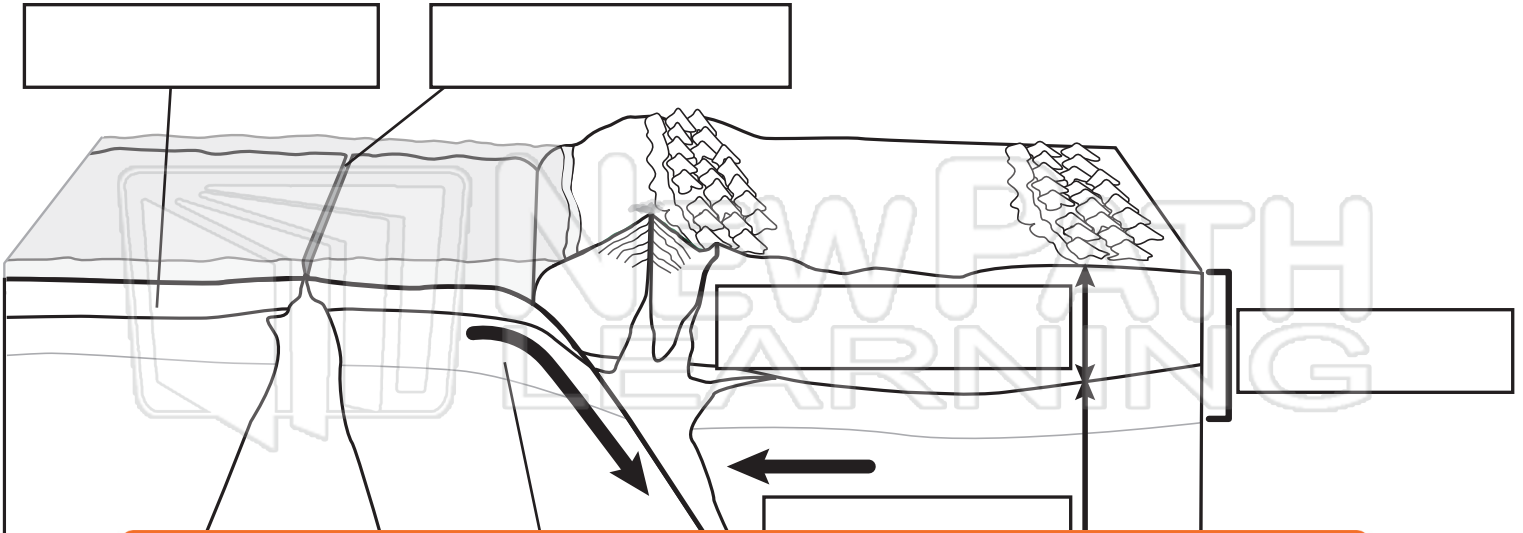
This boundary is called **conservative** because plate material is neither created nor destroyed at these boundaries, but rather plates slide past each other horizontally. An example of a transform plate boundary is the **San Andreas Fault** in southern California.



# Plate Tectonics

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Label the diagram below.



**PREVIEW**

Desc

Ocea

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Continental crust: \_\_\_\_\_

Mantle: \_\_\_\_\_

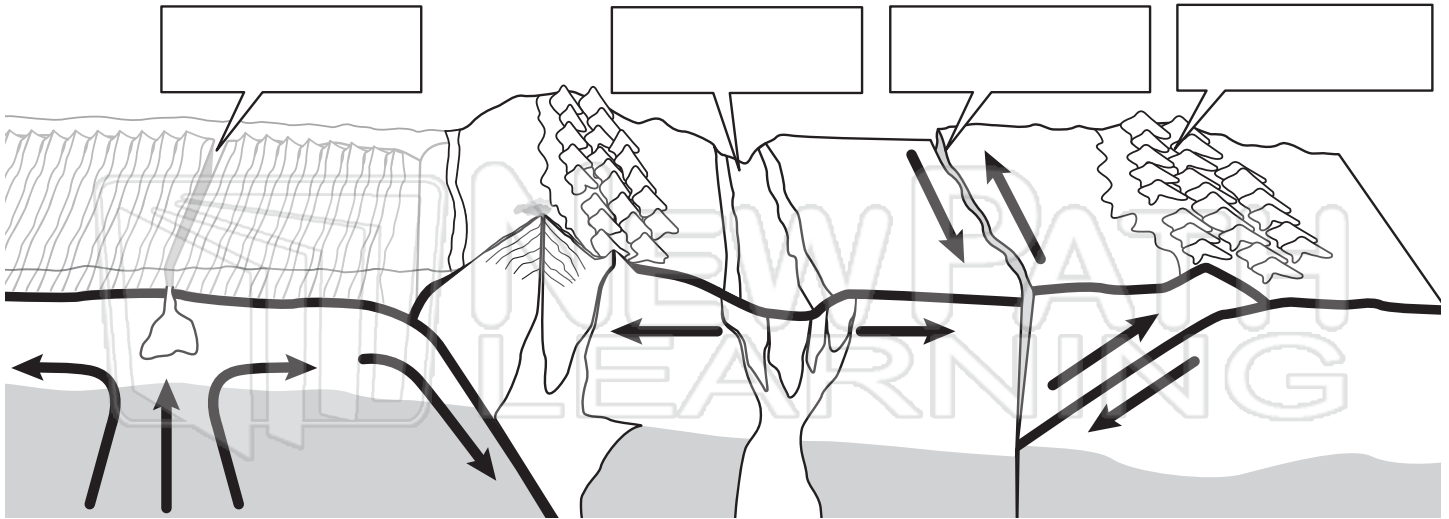
Lithosphere: \_\_\_\_\_



# Plate Tectonics

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Label the boundaries in the illustration.



Desc  
Diver



Conv

## PREVIEW

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Conservative or transform boundary

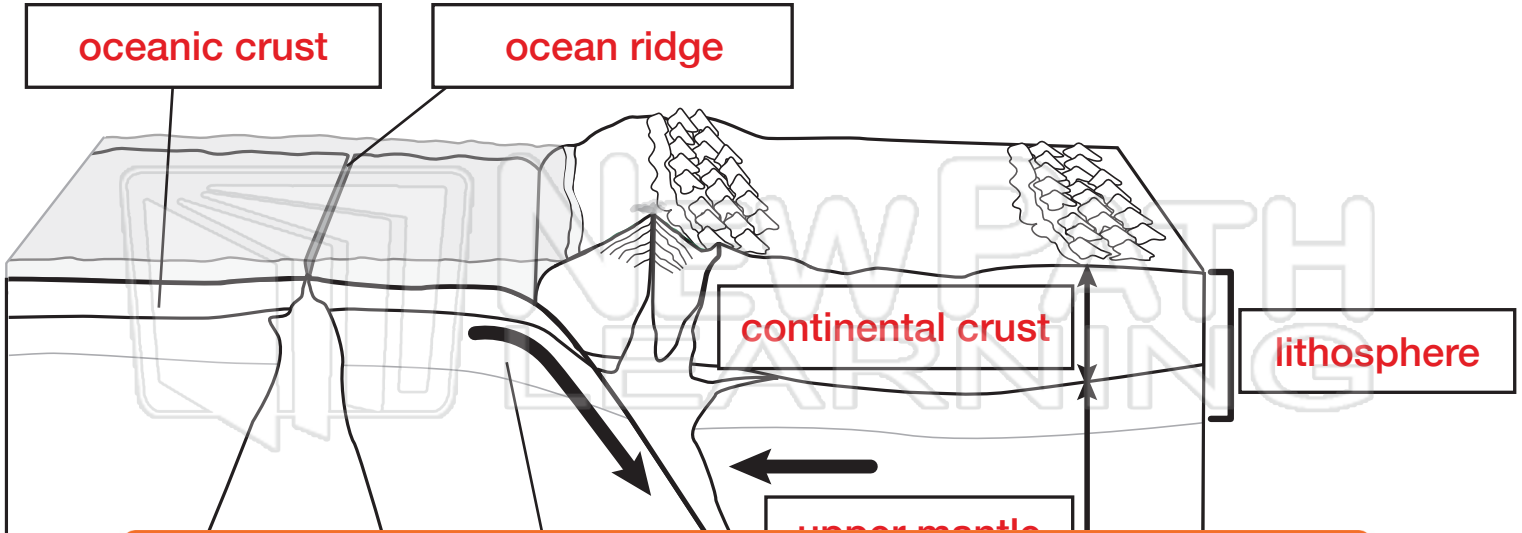




# Plate Tectonics

## Answer Key

Label the diagram below.



**PREVIEW**

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Desc

Ocea  
part

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Continental crust:

Part of Earth's crust, it's thicker and less dense than

oceanic crust

Mantle:

Layer of Earth between the crust and Earth's core. Part of it makes up the lithosphere.

Lithosphere:

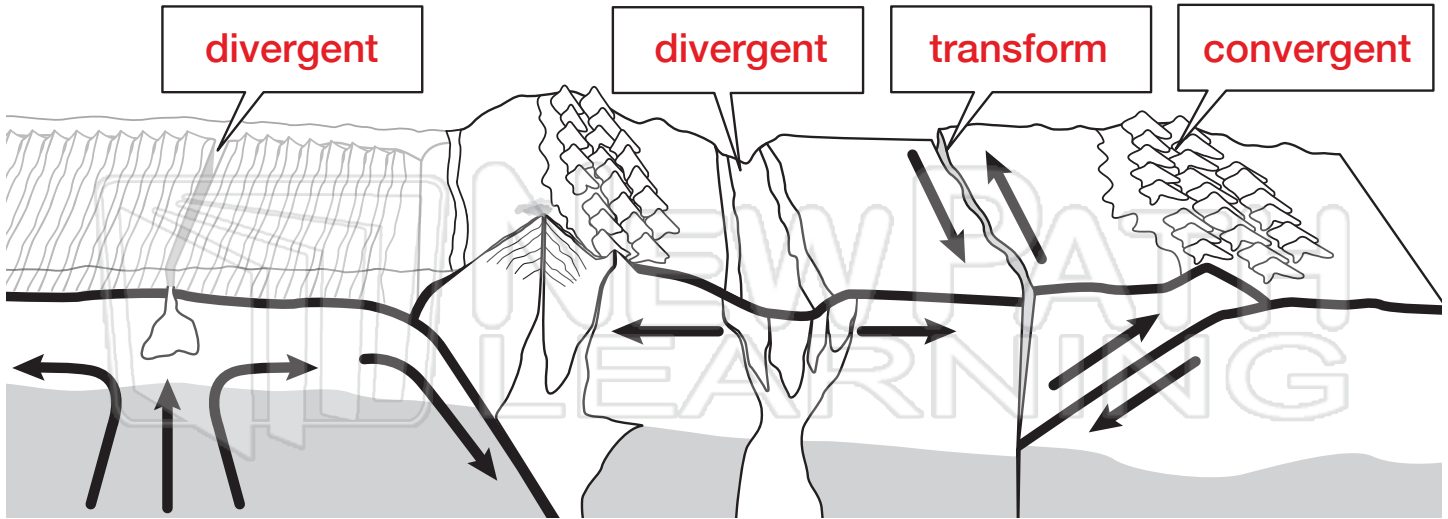
Layer of Earth that's a combination of crust and part of the solid upper mantle.



# Plate Tectonics

## Answer Key

Label the boundaries in the illustration.



Desc  
Diver  
Two  
they  
mag  
New  
Conv  
At th  
of co  
can

**PREVIEW**

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rt,  
en  
s.  
r.  
ype  
ce

oceanic plates, or between two continental plates.

### Conservative or transform boundary

This boundary is called conservative because plate material is neither created nor destroyed. The plates slide past each other horizontally. An example of a transform plate boundary is the San Andreas Fault in southern California.