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plate tectonics from latin tectonicus from ancient greek τεκτονικός tektonikós pertaining to building is the scientific theory that earth s lithosphere comprises a number of large tectonic plates which have been slowly moving since about 3 4 billion years ago in plate tectonics earth s outermost layer or lithosphere made up of the crust and upper mantle is broken into large rocky plates these plates lie on top of a partially molten layer of rock called the asthenosphere plate tectonics theory dealing with the dynamics of earth s outer shell the lithosphere that revolutionized earth sciences by providing a uniform context for understanding mountain building processes volcanoes and earthquakes as well as the evolution of earth s surface and reconstructing its past continents and oceans earth s lithosphere or outermost shell is broken up into large pieces called tectonic plates these plates move slowly over the asthenosphere a layer of softer rock below the lithosphere on average tectonic plates move a few centimeters per year plate tectonics the earth s plates jostle about in fits and starts that are punctuated with earthquakes and volcanic eruptions 4 min read there are a few handfuls of major plates and thus plate tectonics is a scientific theory that deals with the large scale motion of the plates that makes up the earth s lithosphere from the deepest trench of oceans to the highest mountains plate tectonics explains the movement of earth s surface in the past and present the movements of these plates can account for noticeable geologic events such as earthquakes volcanic eruptions and more subtle yet sublime events

like the building of mountains teach your students about plate tectonics using these classroom resources plate tectonics describes how earth s entire 100 kilometer thick outermost layer called the lithosphere is broken into a jigsaw puzzle of plates slabs of rock bearing both continents and over 200 million years pangea broke apart and the pieces drifted into the continents we know today so if the plates move so slowly how do we know that they move at all scientists have documented evidence from various features on earth that support the theory of plate tectonics the theory of plate tectonics explains processes in the geosphere that are fueled by earth s internal heat that have operated over billions of years these changes can be imperceptible over a human lifetime or violent and abrupt and continue to shape earth s environments the theory of plate tectonics states that earth s solid outer crust the lithosphere is separated into plates that move over the asthenosphere the molten upper portion of the mantle oceanic and continental plates come together spread apart and interact at boundaries all over the planet a map of the tectonic plates of the earth showing the different boundary types in different colors locations where plates collide convergent boundaries are shown in red locations where plates are spreading divergent boundaries are shown in yellow plate tectonics is the theory that earth s outer shell is divided into large slabs of solid rock called plates that glide over earth s mantle the rocky inner layer above earth s core geologists studying the earth use scientific observation and evidence to construct a picture of what the earth looked like at different periods in the geologic past use this map gallery to better understand how plate tectonics created the ocean and continents we are familiar with today learn about tectonic plates in geology get a tectonic plate map learn the names of the major plates and discover the types of boundaries introduction the theory of supply chain management coyle

plate tectonics says that earth's outer layer is made up of large moving pieces called plates all of earth's land and water sit on these plates the plates are made of solid rock under the plates is a weaker layer of partially melted rock a theory of global tectonics in which the lithosphere is divided into a number of plates whose pattern of horizontal movement is that of torsionally rigid bodies that interact with one another at their boundaries causing seismic and tectonic activity along these boundaries definition source the geological society of london sub topics in this chapter you will learn about what drives mountain building causes regional metamorphism generates magmas and forms ocean basins a system known as plate tectonics for more information on plate tectonics and mountain building i suggest park 2012 plate tectonics is the theory that earth's outer shell is divided into several plates that glide over the mantle the rocky inner layer above the core the plates act like hard and rigid shells compared to earth's mantle this strong outer layer is called the lithosphere we review the what where why and when of plate tectonics most evidence suggests that mobile lid plate tectonics initiated at c 3 0 2 9 ga older evidence for subduction records isolated occurrences in a global stagnant lid other rocky planets in our solar system hold value for interpreting the early

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in plate tectonics earth s outermost layer or lithosphere made up of the crust and upper mantle is broken into large rocky plates these plates lie on top of a partially molten layer of rock called the asthenosphere

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over 200 million years pangea broke apart and the pieces drifted into the continents we know today so if the plates move so slowly how do we know that they move at all scientists have documented evidence from various features on earth that support the theory of plate tectonics

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geologists studying the earth use scientific observation and evidence to construct a picture of what the earth looked like at different periods in the geologic past use this map gallery to better understand how plate tectonics created the ocean and continents we are familiar with today

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