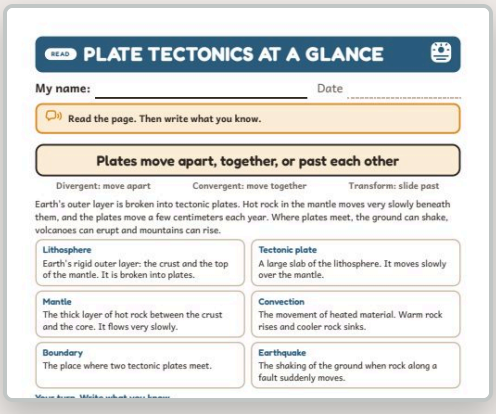
6TH–8TH GRADE · EARTH SCIENCE

DIAGRAMS

PLATE TECTONICS WORKSHEETS

Label the layers of Earth, fill in the paragraph, complete the plate-boundary table, read data and draw the graph, sort divergent from convergent boundaries, and write short answers. Answer keys, a tracker and a family page. Print, or type your answers. PDF.


READ PLATE TECTONICS AT A GLANCE

My name: _____ Date _____

Read the page. Then write what you know.

Plates move apart, together, or past each other

Divergent: move apart Convergent: move together Transform: slide past

Earth's outer layer is broken into tectonic plates. Hot rock in the mantle moves very slowly beneath them, and the plates move a few centimeters each year. Where plates meet, the ground can shake, volcanoes can erupt and mountains can rise.

Lithosphere Earth's rigid outer layer: the crust and the top of the mantle. It is broken into plates.

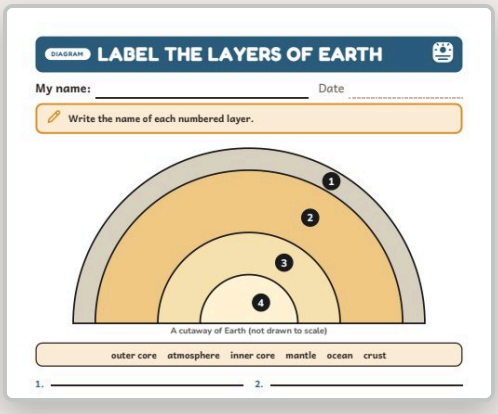
Tectonic plate A large slab of the lithosphere. It moves slowly over the mantle.

Mantle The thick layer of hot rock between the crust and the core. It flows very slowly.

Convection The movement of heated material. Warm rock rises and cooler rock sinks.

Boundary The place where two tectonic plates meet.

Earthquake The shaking of the ground when rock along a fault suddenly moves.


DIAGRAM LABEL THE LAYERS OF EARTH

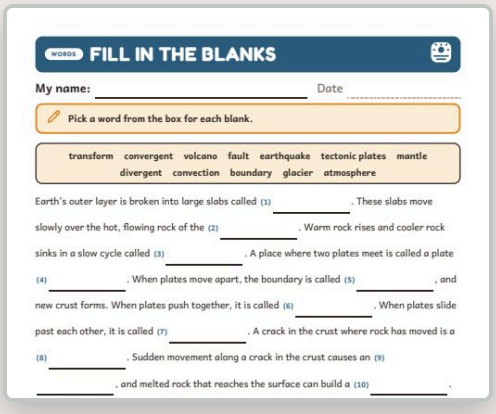
My name: _____ Date _____

Write the name of each numbered layer.

A cutaway of Earth (not drawn to scale)

outer core atmosphere inner core mantle ocean crust

1. _____ 2. _____

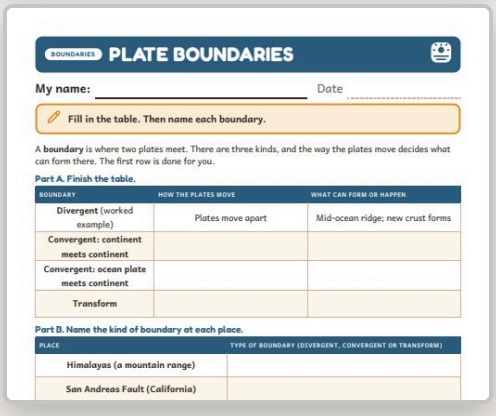

WORDS FILL IN THE BLANKS

My name: _____ Date _____

Pick a word from the box for each blank.

transform convergent volcano fault earthquake tectonic plates mantle divergent convection boundary glacier atmosphere

Earth's outer layer is broken into large slabs called (1) _____. These slabs move slowly over the hot, flowing rock of the (2) _____. Warm rock rises and cooler rock sinks in a slow cycle called (3) _____. A place where two plates meet is called a plate (4) _____. When plates move apart, the boundary is called (5) _____, and new crust forms. When plates push together, it is called (6) _____. When plates slide past each other, it is called (7) _____. A crack in the crust where rock has moved is a (8) _____. Sudden movement along a crack in the crust causes an (9) _____, and melted rock that reaches the surface can build a (10) _____.


BOUNDARIES PLATE BOUNDARIES

My name: _____ Date _____

Fill in the table. Then name each boundary.

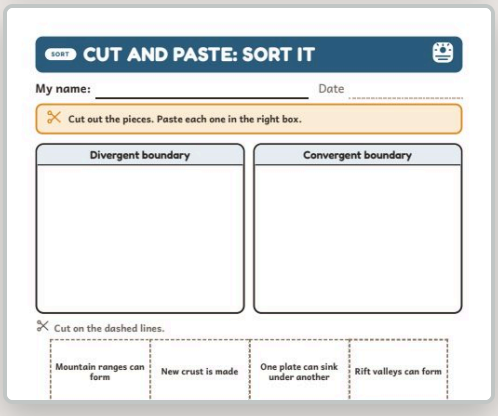
A **boundary** is where two plates meet. There are three kinds, and the way the plates move decides what can form there. The first row is done for you.

Part A. Finish the table.

BOUNDARY	HOW THE PLATES MOVE	WHAT CAN FORM OR HAPPEN
Divergent (worked example)	Plates move apart	Mid-ocean ridge; new crust forms
Convergent: continent meets continent		
Convergent: ocean plate meets continent		
Transform		

Part B. Name the kind of boundary at each place.

PLACE	TYPE OF BOUNDARY (DIVERGENT, CONVERGENT OR TRANSFORM)
Himalayas (a mountain range)	
San Andreas Fault (California)	


SORT CUT AND PASTE: SORT IT

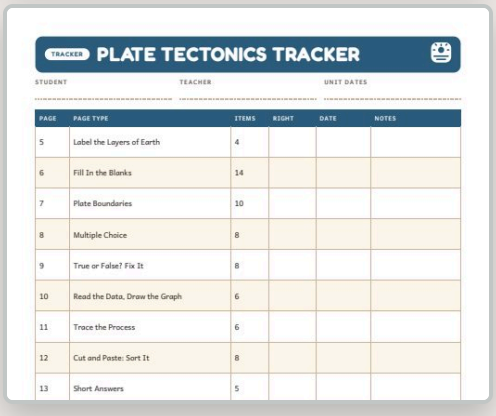
My name: _____ Date _____

Cut out the pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Divergent boundary	Convergent boundary

Cut on the dashed lines.

Mountain ranges can form | New crust is made | One plate can sink under another | Rift valleys can form


TRACKER PLATE TECTONICS TRACKER

STUDENT TEACHER UNIT DATES

PAGE	PAGE TYPE	ITEMS	RIGHT	DATE	NOTES
5	Label the Layers of Earth	4			
6	Fill In the Blanks	14			
7	Plate Boundaries	10			
8	Multiple Choice	8			
9	True or False? Fix It	8			
10	Read the Data, Draw the Graph	6			
11	Trace the Process	6			
12	Cut and Paste: Sort It	8			
13	Short Answers	5			

25 Pages | **11 Page Types** | **72 Items** | **2 Answer Keys**

BRIGHT PATH SPED

START HERE

QUICK START

One complete kit for a plate tectonics unit in grades 6-8. Students read a reference page, label the layers of Earth, fill in a paragraph, complete a plate-boundary table, answer questions, read data and draw a graph, trace the process and write short answers — on pages with room to work.

THREE STEPS

1. **Teach or review with the reference page**
   Page 4 has the three kinds of plate boundary, the six key words and a place for the student to write what they know. Read it together or hand it out as the first page.

2. **Hand over a page**
   Every student page opens with a name line and one short instruction. Nothing on it is written for you, so the student can start. Short answers have three or more lines and the explanations have five or six, so the page is the whole workspace.

3. **Check it, record it, send it home**
   The answer keys are pages 15 and 16. Record each page on the tracker (page 17), roll a group up on page 18, and send the family page (20). A filled example is on page 21.

WHICH PAGE, WHEN

WHEN…	USE…
Introducing or reviewing the unit	At a Glance, page 4 · Label the Layers, page 5
Checking the vocabulary	Fill In the Blanks, page 6 · Multiple Choice, page 8
Comparing the kinds of boundary	Plate Boundaries, page 7
Quick check or exit slip	True or False? Fix It, page 9
Reading data and graphing	Read the Data, Draw the Graph, page 10
Hands-on sorting	Cut and Paste, page 12
Writing about science	Trace the Process, page 11 · Short Answers, page 13 · Explain It, page 14

Everything inside (25 pages)

- **11 student pages** in 11 page types: a reference page, a diagram of Earth's layers to label, fill in, plate boundaries, multiple choice, true or false, data and graph, flow chart, cut and paste and two short-answer pages
- **72 scored items** on 10 pages
- **8 cut-and-paste pieces** on one sort mat
- **2 answer keys, 1 tracker, 1 class grid**, 1 team note, 1 family page, 1 filled example, 1 phrase bank, 1 binder cover and 6 divider tabs

Print or type

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, answer boxes, blanks and writing lines are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file. The graph and the cut-and-paste sort are for pencil and scissors.

READ PLATE TECTONICS AT A GLANCE

My name: _____ Date .....

Read the page. Then write what you know.

Plates move apart, together, or past each other

Divergent: move apart **Convergent: move together** **Transform: slide past**

Earth's outer layer is broken into tectonic plates. Hot rock in the mantle moves very slowly beneath them, and the plates move a few centimeters each year. Where plates meet, the ground can shake, volcanoes can erupt and mountains can rise.

Lithosphere
Earth's rigid outer layer: the crust and the top of the mantle. It is broken into plates.

Tectonic plate
A large slab of the lithosphere. It moves slowly over the mantle.

Mantle
The thick layer of hot rock between the crust and the core. It flows very slowly.

Convection
The movement of heated material. Warm rock rises and cooler rock sinks.

Boundary
The place where two tectonic plates meet.

Earthquake
The shaking of the ground when rock along a fault suddenly moves.

Your turn. Write what you know.

A tectonic plate is

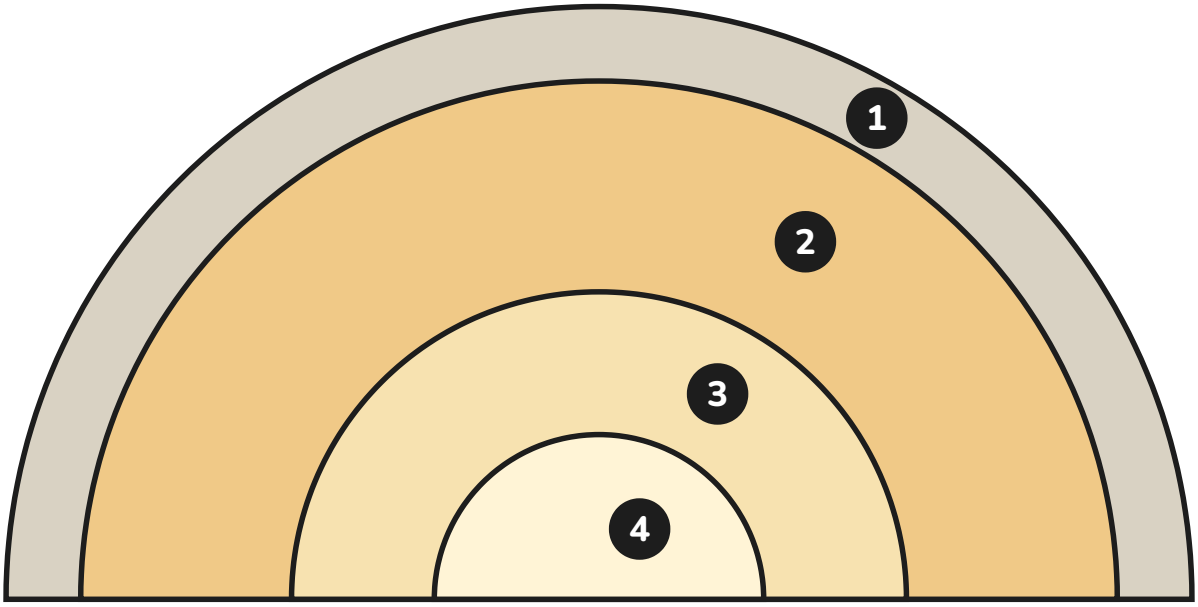
One question I still have about plates

DIAGRAM

LABEL THE LAYERS OF EARTH

My name: _____ Date .....

Write the name of each numbered layer.



A cutaway of Earth (not drawn to scale)

outer core **atmosphere** **inner core** **mantle** **ocean** **crust**

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

A. Which numbered layer is the thinnest?

_____

B. Describe how the outer core and the inner core are different.

WORDS

FILL IN THE BLANKS

My name: _____ Date .....

Pick a word from the box for each blank.

transform **convergent** **volcano** **fault** **earthquake** **tectonic plates** **mantle**
divergent **convection** **boundary** **glacier** **atmosphere**

Earth's outer layer is broken into large slabs called (1) _____. These slabs move slowly over the hot, flowing rock of the (2) _____. Warm rock rises and cooler rock sinks in a slow cycle called (3) _____. A place where two plates meet is called a plate (4) _____. When plates move apart, the boundary is called (5) _____, and new crust forms. When plates push together, it is called (6) _____. When plates slide past each other, it is called (7) _____. A crack in the crust where rock has moved is a (8) _____. Sudden movement along a crack in the crust causes an (9) _____, and melted rock that reaches the surface can build a (10) _____.

Write the four layers of Earth in order, from the surface to the center.

[ ] → [ ] → [ ] → [ ]

Surface **Center**

A. Choose one word from the box that you did not use. Write what it means.

BOUNDARIES

PLATE BOUNDARIES

My name: _____ Date .....

Fill in the table. Then name each boundary.

A **boundary** is where two plates meet. There are three kinds, and the way the plates move decides what can form there. The first row is done for you.

Part A. Finish the table.

BOUNDARY	HOW THE PLATES MOVE	WHAT CAN FORM OR HAPPEN
Divergent (worked example)	Plates move apart	Mid-ocean ridge; new crust forms
Convergent: continent meets continent		
Convergent: ocean plate meets continent		
Transform		

Part B. Name the kind of boundary at each place.

PLACE	TYPE OF BOUNDARY (DIVERGENT, CONVERGENT OR TRANSFORM)
Himalayas (a mountain range)	
San Andreas Fault (California)	
Mid-Atlantic Ridge (under the ocean)	

Part C. Why do tectonic plates move?

SORT CUT AND PASTE: SORT IT

My name: _____ Date .....

Cut out the pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Divergent boundary	Convergent boundary

Cut on the dashed lines.

Mountain ranges can form	New crust is made	One plate can sink under another	Rift valleys can form
Deep ocean trenches can form	Plates move apart	Plates move together	Mid-ocean ridges can form

1. Write one sentence that tells how a transform boundary is different from these two.

TRACKER

PLATE TECTONICS TRACKER

STUDENT _____ TEACHER _____ UNIT DATES _____

PAGE	PAGE TYPE	ITEMS	RIGHT	DATE	NOTES
5	Label the Layers of Earth	4			
6	Fill In the Blanks	14			
7	Plate Boundaries	10			
8	Multiple Choice	8			
9	True or False? Fix It	8			
10	Read the Data, Draw the Graph	6			
11	Trace the Process	6			
12	Cut and Paste: Sort It	8			
13	Short Answers	5			
14	Explain It	3			

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right and the date. A written answer counts as one item when it makes every point in the key (pages 15 and 16). A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. There are 72 items on the 10 pages above; the reference page (4) is not scored. Filled example: page 21.

STANDARD OR UNIT GOAL (YOUR OWN WORDING)

EXAMPLE JORDAN'S TRACKER

Jordan T. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 17.

STUDENT	TEACHER	UNIT DATES
Jordan T. (an invented student)	**Ms. Reyes (invented)**	**October**

PAGE	PAGE TYPE	ITEMS	RIGHT	DATE	NOTES
5	Label the Layers of Earth	4	3	10/12	Mixed up crust and mantle
6	Fill In the Blanks	14	12	10/13	Used a spare word twice
7	Plate Boundaries	10	10	10/14	–
8	Multiple Choice	8	7	10/15	Missed number 7
9	True or False? Fix It	8	8	10/16	–
10	Read the Data, Draw the Graph	6	–	–	–
11	Trace the Process	6	–	–	–
12	Cut and Paste: Sort It	8	7	10/19	One piece in the wrong box
13	Short Answers	5	–	–	–
14	Explain It	3	–	–	–

How to read it

Jordan T. has done **6 of 10** scored pages and got **47 of 52** items right. **2** pages were all right and **5** items were missed across 4 pages. Every number here comes from the table above.

The family note this tracker would produce

"This month Jordan finished 6 pages and got 47 of 52 items right. The next thing to practice is naming the parts of the layers of Earth and the words convergent and divergent." — every number in it is a row of the table above.

What the table points to

4 pages carry a note and each one is short of full. Pages left blank (4 of them) are not tried yet, never wrong. The two writing pages, Short Answers and Explain It, are among them, so they are the next step.

THANK YOU

BEFORE YOU GO

THANK YOU FOR USING THIS RESOURCE

Built for the teacher whose students each need a different amount of support reading, writing and reasoning about science. If this helped, leaving feedback on TPT helps other teachers find it.

Everything inside, one more time

- **11 student pages** in 11 page types, **72 scored items**, every answer read from the same lists that draw the pages.
- **8 multiple-choice questions**, **8 true-or-false statements**, **8 cut-and-paste pieces** and **2 answer keys**.
- **1 tracker, 1 class grid, 1 team note, 1 family page, 1 filled example, 1 phrase bank** (15 starters), **1 binder cover** and divider tabs.

No real student anywhere in this file

The filled example on page 21 names "Jordan T.," an invented student used only to show how the tracker fills in. The experiment on page 10 is invented class data. No table, note or score anywhere in this resource describes a real child, and nothing here is a clinical judgment, an eligibility timeline, or a medical claim of any kind. Once you fill in a real student's name, the tracker, class grid and team note (pages 17, 18 and 19) do carry real information — keep completed pages secure the same way you would any other record.

Something missing or wrong?

Please use the **Ask a Question** tab on the product page first — every question is read, and a fix to the file is a free update you re-download from **My Purchases**.

WHAT'S NEXT FROM THIS STORE

More science and vocabulary for the same classroom, including lower-reading-level sets for students who need them.



Content Area Vocabulary: Science and Social Studies
Progress-monitoring probes for science and social studies words, grades 4-6.



Push and Pull Worksheets
A lower-reading-level science set: circle push or pull, sort and fill in, K-2.



Landforms and Bodies of Water Worksheets
A lower-reading-level earth science set: anchor chart, circle, odd word, cut and paste, K-2.

Click **Follow** on the store page and TPT will email you when new products go up.

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