

# 8<sup>th</sup> grade: modified

## Ms. Hanrahan's Days 11-20 Science NTI Assignments, 8 Gold

We will be learning about plate tectonics. Plate tectonics includes topics such as Pangea, convergent, divergent, and transform plate boundaries, continental drift, and seafloor spreading. You will see that the fossils we just learned about are a key piece of evidence supporting the theory of continental drift. You learned about plate tectonics in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, but we review it in 8<sup>th</sup> grade before you go to high school.

### **Days 11 and 12**

1. Read "Section 3 Plate Tectonics"
2. Answer questions 1-3 in the "section 3 review"
3. Complete the "plate tectonics section 3 theory of plate tectonics" practice (actual document pages 76-78)

### **Day 13**

1. Complete "Going Deep with Plate Tectonics" passage and questions

### **Day 14**

1. Complete "Plate Boundary Homework"

### **Day 15 and 16**

1. Read "Section 1 Continental Drift"
2. Answer questions 1-4 in the "section 1 review"
3. Complete the "plate tectonics section 1 continental drift" practice (actual document 70-72)

### **Day 17**

1. Complete "Continental Drift CER"
2. Complete "Pangea Exists" newspaper article

### **Day 18 and 19**

1. Read "Section 2 Seafloor Spreading"
2. Answer questions 1-5 in the "section 2 review"
3. Complete the "plate tectonics section 2 seafloor spreading" practice (actual document 73-75)

### **Day 20**

1. Complete "Chapter 7 Review" questions 7-14
2. Complete "Chapter 7 Standardized Test Practice" questions 1-7 and 13-15

### **Additional Video Resources you can use to help you learn:**

1. Go to YouTube: search "Plate tectonics" and watch the first video. It is published by BrainPop and is a little over 7 minutes long. We would have watched this in class at the beginning of the

# Theory of Plate Tectonics

as you read

What You'll Learn

- Compare and contrast different types of plate boundaries.
- Explain how heat inside Earth causes plate tectonics.
- Recognize features caused by plate tectonics.

Why It's Important

Plate tectonics explains how many of Earth's features form.

Review Vocabulary

- converge:** to come together
- diverge:** to move apart
- transform:** to convert or change

New Vocabulary

- plate tectonics
- plate
- lithosphere
- asthenosphere
- convection current

## Plate Tectonics

The idea of seafloor spreading showed that more than just continents were moving, as Wegener had thought. It was now clear to scientists that sections of the seafloor and continents move in relation to one another.

**Plate Movements** In the 1960s, scientists developed a theory that combined continental drift and seafloor spreading. According to the theory of plate tectonics, Earth's crust and part of the upper mantle are broken into sections. These sections, called plates, move on a plasticlike layer of the mantle. The plates can be thought of as rafts that float and move on the layer.

**Composition of Earth's Plates** Plates are made of the crust and a part of the upper mantle, as shown in Figure 8. These two parts combined are the **lithosphere** (LIH tuh sfer). This rigid layer is about 100 km thick and generally is less dense than material underneath. The plasticlike layer below the lithosphere is called the **asthenosphere** (as THE nuh sfer). The plates of the lithosphere float and move around on the asthenosphere.

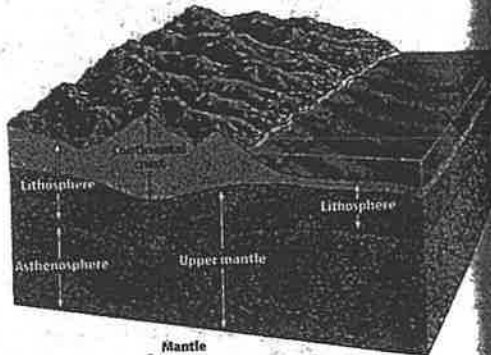
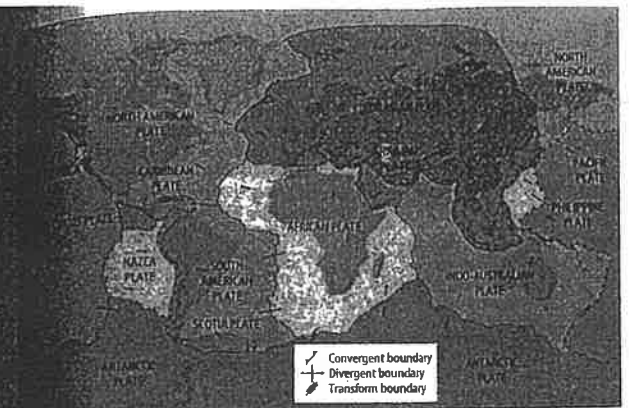


Figure 8 Plates of the lithosphere are composed of oceanic crust, continental crust, and rigid upper mantle.



## Plate Boundaries

When plates move, they can interact in several ways. They can move toward each other and converge, or collide. They also can pull apart or slide alongside one another. When the plates interact, the result of their movement is seen at the plate boundaries, as in Figure 9.

**Reading Check** What are the general ways that plates interact?

Movement along any plate boundary means that changes can happen at other boundaries. What is happening to the Atlantic Ocean floor between the North American and African plates? Compare this with what is happening along the western coast of South America.

**Plates Moving Apart** The boundary between two plates that are moving apart is called a **divergent boundary**. You learned about divergent boundaries when you read about seafloor spreading. In the Atlantic Ocean, the North American Plate is moving away from the Eurasian and the African Plates, as shown in Figure 9. That divergent boundary is called the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The Great Rift Valley in eastern Africa might become a divergent plate boundary. There, a valley has formed where a continental plate is being pulled apart. Figure 10 shows a side view of what a rift valley might look like and illustrates how the material rises up where plates separate.

Figure 9 This diagram shows major plates of the lithosphere, direction of movement, and the type of boundary between them. Analyze and Conclude Base what is shown in this figure, what is happening where the Nazca Plate meets the Pacific Plate?

Diverge

pg 190

↑  
pg 191

Modeling Convection Currents

- Procedure**
1. Pour water into a clear colorless casserole dish until it is 5 cm from the edge. Center the dish on a hot plate and heat it. WARNING: Wear thermal mitts to protect your hands.
  2. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water above the center of the hot plate.
  3. Looking from the side of the dish, observe what happens in the water.
  4. Illustrate your observations in your Science Journal.

- Analysis**
1. Determine whether air currents form in the water.
  2. Infer what causes the currents to form.

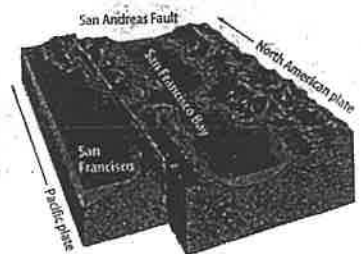
**Where Plates Collide** A subduction zone also can form where two oceanic plates converge. In this case, the colder, denser oceanic plate bends and sinks down into the mantle. The Mariana Islands in the western Pacific are a chain of volcanic islands formed where two oceanic plates collide.

Usually, no subduction occurs when two continental plates collide, as shown in **Figure 10**. Because both of these plates are less dense than the material in the asthenosphere, the two plates collide and crumple up, forming mountain ranges. Earthquakes are common at these convergent boundaries. However, volcanoes do not form because there is no, or little, subduction. The Himalayas in Asia are forming where the Indo-Australian Plate collides with the Eurasian Plate.

**Where Plates Slide Past Each Other** The third type of plate boundary is called a **transform boundary**. Transform boundaries occur where two plates slide past one another. They move in opposite directions or in the same direction at different rates. When one plate slips past another suddenly, earthquakes occur. The Pacific Plate is sliding past the North American Plate forming the famous San Andreas Fault in California, as seen in **Figure 11**. The San Andreas Fault is part of a transform plate boundary. It has been the site of many earthquakes.

**Figure 11** The San Andreas Fault in California occurs along the transform plate boundary where the Pacific Plate is sliding past the North American Plate.

Overall, the two plates are moving in roughly the same direction. Explain why, then, do the red arrows show movement in opposite directions?

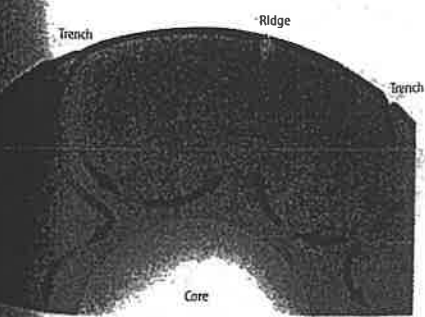


**Causes of Plate Tectonics**

Many new discoveries have been made about Earth's crust since Wegener's day, but one question still remains. What causes plates to move? Scientists now think they have a good idea. They think that plates move by the same basic process that occurs when you heat soup.

**Convection Inside Earth** Soup that is cooking in a pan on the stove contains currents caused by an unequal distribution of heat. The pan is hot, less dense soup is forced upward by the surrounding cooler, denser soup. As the hot soup reaches the surface, it cools and sinks back down into the pan. This entire cycle of heating, cooling, and sinking is called a **convection current**. A version of this same process, occurring in the mantle, is thought to be the force behind plate tectonics. Scientists suggest that differences in density cause hot, plasticlike rock to be forced upward toward the surface.

**Moving Mantle Material** Wegener wasn't able to come up with an explanation for why plates move. Today, researchers are studying the movement of heat in Earth's interior have proposed several possible explanations. All of the hypotheses use convection in one way or another. It is, therefore, the transfer of heat inside Earth that provides the energy to move plates and forms many of Earth's surface features. One hypothesis is shown in **Figure 12**. It relates plate motion directly to the movement of convection currents. According to this hypothesis, convection currents cause the movements of plates.

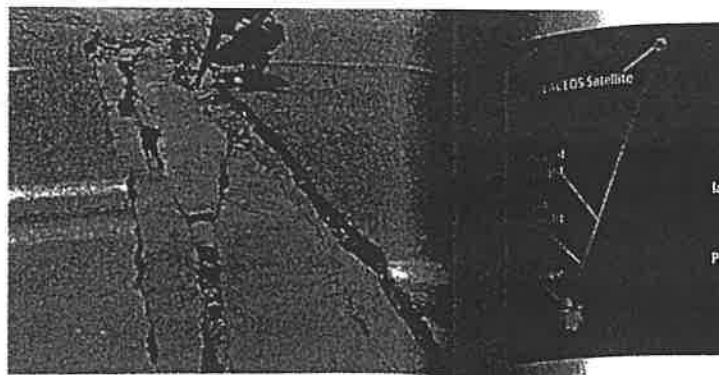


**Figure 12** In one hypothesis, convection currents occur throughout the mantle. Such convection currents (see arrows) are the driving force of plate tectonics.

Pg 194

Pg 195

**Figure 15** Most of the movement along a strike-slip fault is parallel to Earth's surface. When movement occurs, human-built structures along a strike-slip fault are offset, as shown here in this road.



P. 78 # 3

**Strike-Slip Faults** At transform boundaries, two plates slide past one another without converging or diverging. The plates stick and then slide, mostly in a horizontal direction, along large strike-slip faults. In a strike-slip fault, rocks on opposite sides of the fault move in opposite directions, or in the same direction at different rates. This type of fault movement is shown in **Figure 15**. One such example is the San Andreas Fault. When plates move suddenly, vibrations are generated inside Earth that are felt as an earthquake.

Earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain ranges are evidence of plate motion. Plate tectonics explains how activity inside Earth can affect Earth's crust differently in different locations. You've seen how plates have moved since Pangaea separated. Is it possible to measure how far plates move each year?

### Testing for Plate Tectonics

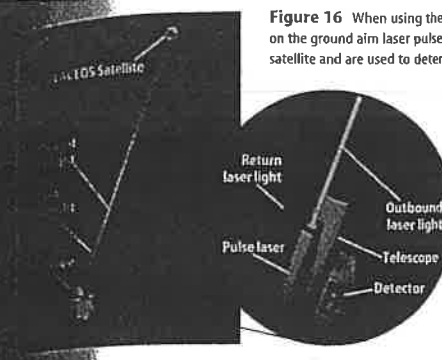
Until recently, the only tests scientists could use to check for plate movement were indirect. They could study the magnetic characteristics of rocks on the seafloor. They could study volcanoes and earthquakes. These methods supported the theory that the plates have moved and still are moving. However, they did not provide proof—only support—of the idea.

New methods had to be discovered to be able to measure the small amounts of movement of Earth's plates. One method, shown in **Figure 16**, uses lasers and a satellite. Now scientists can measure exact movements of Earth's plates to a little as 1 cm per year.

### INTEGRATE Physics

**Direction of Forces** In which directions do forces act at convergent, divergent, and transform boundaries? Demonstrate these forces using wooden blocks or your hands.

**Figure 16** When using the Satellite Laser Ranging System, scientists on the ground aim laser pulses at a satellite. The pulses reflect off the satellite and are used to determine a precise location on the ground.



**Current Data** Satellite Laser Ranging System data show Hawaii is moving toward Japan at a rate of about 8.3 cm per year. Maryland is moving toward England at a rate of 1.1 cm per year. Using such methods, scientists have observed that the plates move at rates ranging from about 1 cm to 12 cm per year.

## SECTION 3 REVIEW

### Summary

#### Plate Tectonics

The theory of plate tectonics states that sections of the seafloor and continents move as plates on a plasticlike layer of the mantle.

#### Plate Boundaries

A boundary between two plates moving apart is called a divergent boundary.

Plates move together at a convergent boundary.

Transform boundaries occur where two plates slide past one another.

#### Causes of Plate Tectonics

Convection currents are thought to cause the movement of Earth's plates.

#### Features Caused by Plate Tectonics

Convergent forces cause normal faults, rift valleys, and ocean ridges at divergent boundaries.

At convergent boundaries, compression forces cause folding, reverse faults, and mountains.

At transform boundaries, two plates slide past one another along strike-slip faults.

### Self Check

1. Describe what occurs at plate boundaries that are associated with seafloor spreading.
2. Describe three types of plate boundaries where volcanic eruptions can occur.
3. Explain how convection currents are related to plate tectonics.
4. **Think Critically** Using Figure 9 and a world map, determine what natural disasters might occur in Iceland. Also determine what disasters might occur in Tibet. Explain why some Icelandic disasters are not expected to occur in Tibet.

### Applying Skills

5. **Predict** Plate tectonic activity causes many events that can be dangerous to humans. One of these events is a seismic sea wave, or tsunami. Learn how scientists predict the arrival time of a tsunami in a coastal area.
6. **Use a Word Processor** Write three separate descriptions of the three basic types of plate boundaries—divergent boundaries, convergent boundaries, and transform boundaries. Then draw a sketch of an example of each boundary next to your description.

pg 198

# Plate Tectonics

## Section 3 Theory of Plate Tectonics

**Scan** the headings and illustrations in Section 3. List four features caused by plate tectonics.

- pg 197
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_

### Review Vocabulary

**Define** the review terms to show their scientific meanings.

- converge \_\_\_\_\_ pg 192
- diverge \_\_\_\_\_ pg. 190
- transform \_\_\_\_\_ pg. 194

### New Vocabulary

**Use** your book to define the following terms.

- plate \_\_\_\_\_ pg 190
- \_\_\_\_\_ P
- plate tectonics \_\_\_\_\_ pg 190
- \_\_\_\_\_
- lithosphere \_\_\_\_\_ pg 190
- \_\_\_\_\_
- asthenosphere \_\_\_\_\_ pg 190
- \_\_\_\_\_
- convection current \_\_\_\_\_ pg 194
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Academic Vocabulary

**Use** a dictionary to define rigid.

- rigid \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Section 3 Theory of Plate Tectonics (continued)

**Main Idea**

**Causes of Plate Tectonics**

I found this information on page \_\_\_\_\_

SE 195  
RE p. 96

**Features Caused by Plate Tectonics**

I found this information on page \_\_\_\_\_

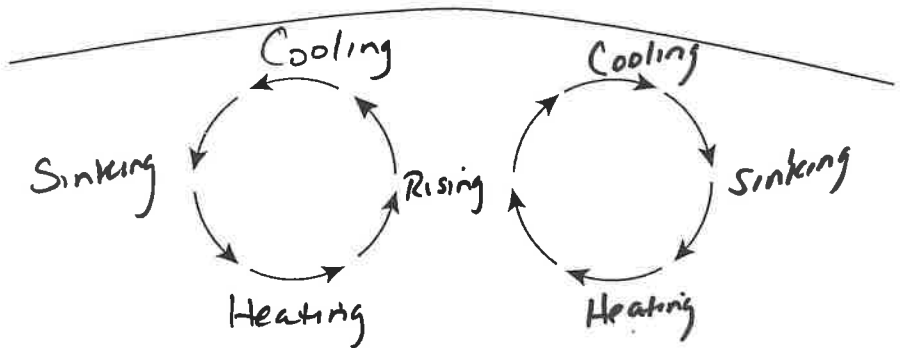
SE pp. 196-197

**Testing for Plate Tectonics**

I found this information on page \_\_\_\_\_

**Details**

Label the convection currents depicted below with heating, rising, cooling, and sinking.



Organize information to describe features caused by plate tectonics. Fill in the chart below.

Feature	Description
① Rift valley	Being stretched or _____ p. 196
② Folded and faulted mountains p. 197	High mountains that form where plates _____
③ Strike-slip faults p. 198	Faults that form at transform boundaries where plates _____

Summarize how the Satellite Laser Ranging System measures plate movement.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(PBH 5)

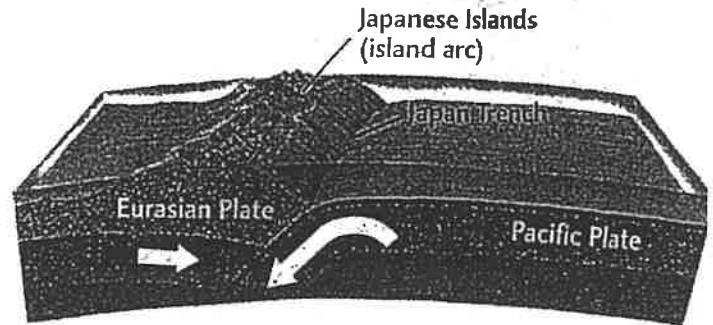
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# Going DEEP with PLATE TECTONICS

## Study Guide and Practice

Convergent Plate Boundaries are where one plate subducts under crust that is less dense to be recycle back into the asthenosphere. There are three type o convergent plate boundaries:

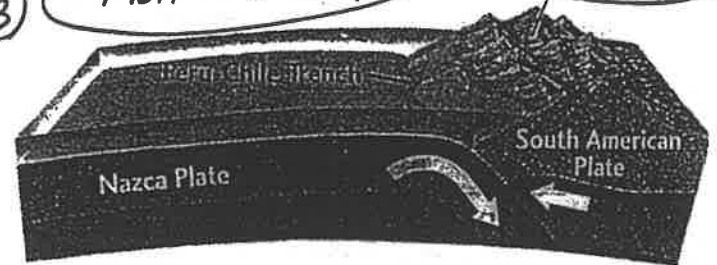
- **Ocean to Ocean:** when the crust of two oceanic plates meet, usually forming island arcs.



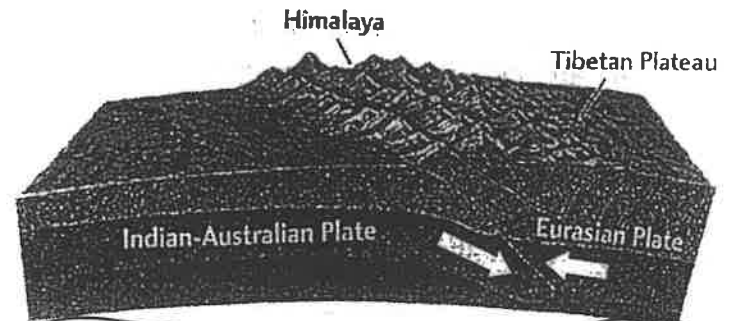
- **Ocean to Continental:** when ocean crust subducts under continental crust forming mountain chains and volcanic activity.

PBH #6 2<sup>nd</sup> Bullet

PBH # 1<sup>st</sup> Bullet



- **Continental to Continental:** when two continental plates meet and buckle up forming large mountains

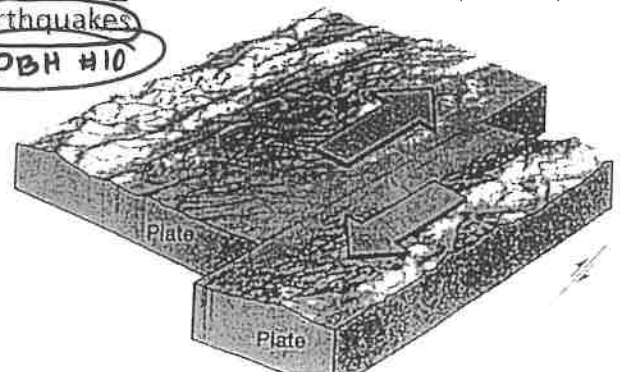


PBH #9

Transform Plate Boundaries are when plates move side by side with each other resulting in frequent earthquakes

PBH #11

PBH #10



How do mountains form? Why do earthquakes happen? What is a volcano and why does it erupt? Throughout recorded human history, there were always questions like these trying to understand how or why these events happened. Questions such as these led to plenty of research from hundreds of scientists over the past century to find the answers. These answers were found! From the collected facts and evidence, there was a theory to explain it all... **The Theory of Plate Tectonics!**

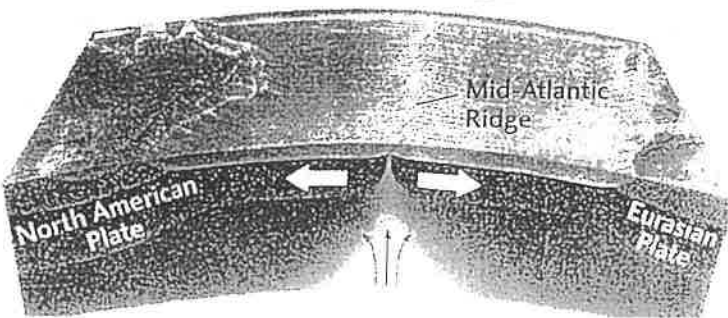
We live on a restless Earth, in which 7 major and 8 minor tectonic plates move about on top of the asthenosphere. Whether they are colliding, dividing, or sliding, these plates are always in motion. Where these plates meet, called 'plate boundaries', is where most of the earthquakes and volcanoes on Earth happen.

The Theory of Plate Tectonics underlines that the Earth forms new crust at the mid-ocean ridges. This crust begins to move outward to either side of the ridge. As it moves, it is forced below another plate where it is melted back into magma. Far into the geological future, this recycled crust emerges again at a mid-ocean ridge.

What causes the plates to move about? It's very simple really! It's called **CONVECTION CURRENTS!** Think of how boiling water in a pot moves... the hotter water rises up. Then, as the water moves to the pot's edge, it is forced back down to be heated back up again. Inside the Earth, instead of convecting water, it is convecting magma.

There are **THREE** types of plate boundaries: **DIVERGENT**, **CONVERGENT**, and **TRANSFORM!** Each of these give rise to new landforms and can cause many natural disasters.

Divergent Plate Boundaries are where plates are moving away from each other. This movement is found along mid-ocean ridges where new crust material is being formed.



1

2

4

PBH 1

PBH 3

PBH #2

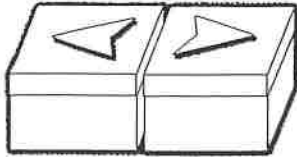
# Plate Boundary Homework

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Some Answer hints on "Going Deep with Plate Tectonics" article.

Hints will be: PBH1 (Ex)

A



1. What is the name of this type of boundary in Figure A?  
\_\_\_\_\_

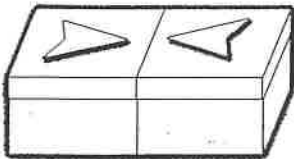
2. What type of features are found at this boundary?

- In the ocean \_\_\_\_\_
- On the continent rift valley

3. How are these plates moving? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is this an example of a subduction zone? Yes or No

B



5. What is the name of this type of boundary in Figure B?  
\_\_\_\_\_

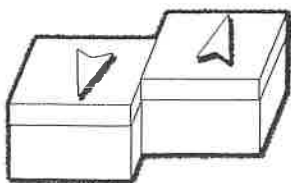
6. What type of features are found at this boundary?

- Continental/Continental \_\_\_\_\_
- Continental/Oceanic \_\_\_\_\_
- Oceanic/Oceanic underwater volcanoes

7. How are these plates moving? together or apart  
Choose one.

8. Put a check by the ones that are subduction zones.  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

C



9. What is the name of this type of boundary in figure C?  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What type of features are found at this boundary?  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. How are these plates moving? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Is this an example of a subduction zone? Yes or No

Your choice

Bonus: Name a place on Earth where you would find these boundaries:

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_



# Continental Drift

## as you read

### What You'll Learn

- Describe the hypothesis of continental drift.
- Identify evidence supporting continental drift.

### Why It's Important

The hypothesis of continental drift led to plate tectonics—a theory that explains many processes in Earth.

### Review Vocabulary

**continent:** one of the six or seven great divisions of land on the globe

### New Vocabulary

- continental drift
- Pangaea

**Figure 1** This illustration represents how the continents once were joined to form Pangaea. This fitting together of continents according to shape is not the only evidence supporting the past existence of Pangaea.

## Evidence for Continental Drift

If you look at a map of Earth's surface, you can see that the edges of some continents look as though they could fit together like a puzzle. Other people also have noticed this fact. For example, Dutch mapmaker Abraham Ortelius noted the fit between the coastlines of South America and Africa more than 400 years ago.

**Pangaea** German meteorologist Alfred Wegener (VEG nuh) thought that the fit of the continents wasn't just a coincidence. He suggested that all the continents were joined together at some time in the past. In a 1912 lecture, he proposed the hypothesis of continental drift. According to the hypothesis of continental drift, continents have moved slowly to their current locations. Wegener suggested that all continents once were connected as one large landmass, shown in **Figure 1**, that broke apart about 200 million years ago. He called this large landmass **Pangaea** (pan JEE uh), which means "all land."

**Reading Check** Who proposed continental drift?



**A Controversial Idea** Wegener's ideas about continental drift were controversial. It wasn't until long after Wegener's death in 1930 that his basic hypothesis was accepted. The evidence Wegener presented hadn't been enough to convince many people during his lifetime. He was unable to explain exactly how the continents drifted apart. He proposed that the continents plowed through the ocean floor, driven by the spin of Earth. Physicists and geologists of the time strongly disagreed with Wegener's explanation. They pointed out that continental drift would not be necessary to explain many of Wegener's observations. Other important observations that came later eventually supported Wegener's earlier evidence.

**Fossil Clues** Besides the puzzlelike fit of the continents, fossils provided support for continental drift. Fossils of the reptile *Mesosaurus* have been found in South America and Africa, as shown in **Figure 2**. This swimming reptile lived in freshwater and on land. How could fossils of *Mesosaurus* be found on land areas separated by a large ocean of salt water? It probably couldn't swim between the continents. Wegener hypothesized that this reptile lived on both continents when they were joined.

**Reading Check** How do *Mesosaurus* fossils support the past existence of Pangaea?



**Topic: Continental Drift**  
Visit [blue.msscience.com](http://blue.msscience.com) for Web links to information about the continental drift hypothesis.

**Activity** Research and write a brief report about the initial reactions, from the public and scientific communities, toward Wegener's continental drift hypothesis.

**Figure 2** Fossil remains of plants and animals that lived in Pangaea have been found on more than one continent.  
**Evaluate** How do the locations of *Glossopteris*, *Mesosaurus*, *Kanmeyerid*, *Labyrinthodon*, and other fossils support Wegener's hypothesis of continental drift?

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# Plate Tectonics

## Section 1 Continental Drift

**Skim** through Section 1 of your book. Write three questions that come to mind from reading the headings and examining the illustrations.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Review Vocabulary

**Define** continent to show its scientific meaning.

continent

p. 182

### New Vocabulary

Use your book to define the following terms. Then write an original sentence using each term.

continental drift

p. 182

Pangaea

p. 182

### Academic Vocabulary

Use a dictionary to define controversy.

controversy

Section 1 Continental Drift (continued)

**Main Idea**

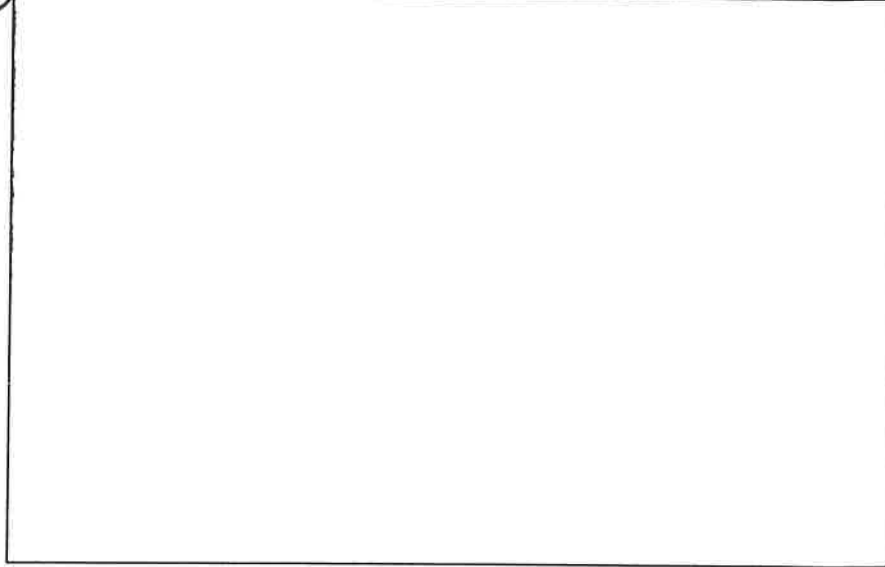
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**Details**

**Model** what the continents may have looked like 250 million years ago.

Draw where star (★) is marked.



**How could continents drift?**

I found this information on page \_\_\_\_\_

p. 185

**Summarize** Wegener's explanations of how and why continental drift occurs.

Wegener's explanation for continental drift

2 How: \_\_\_\_\_

3 Why: The continents are propelled by the spinning of E (our planet name) on its axis

**EVALUATE IT**

Do you think it was reasonable for scientists initially to reject the hypothesis of continental drift? Explain your response.



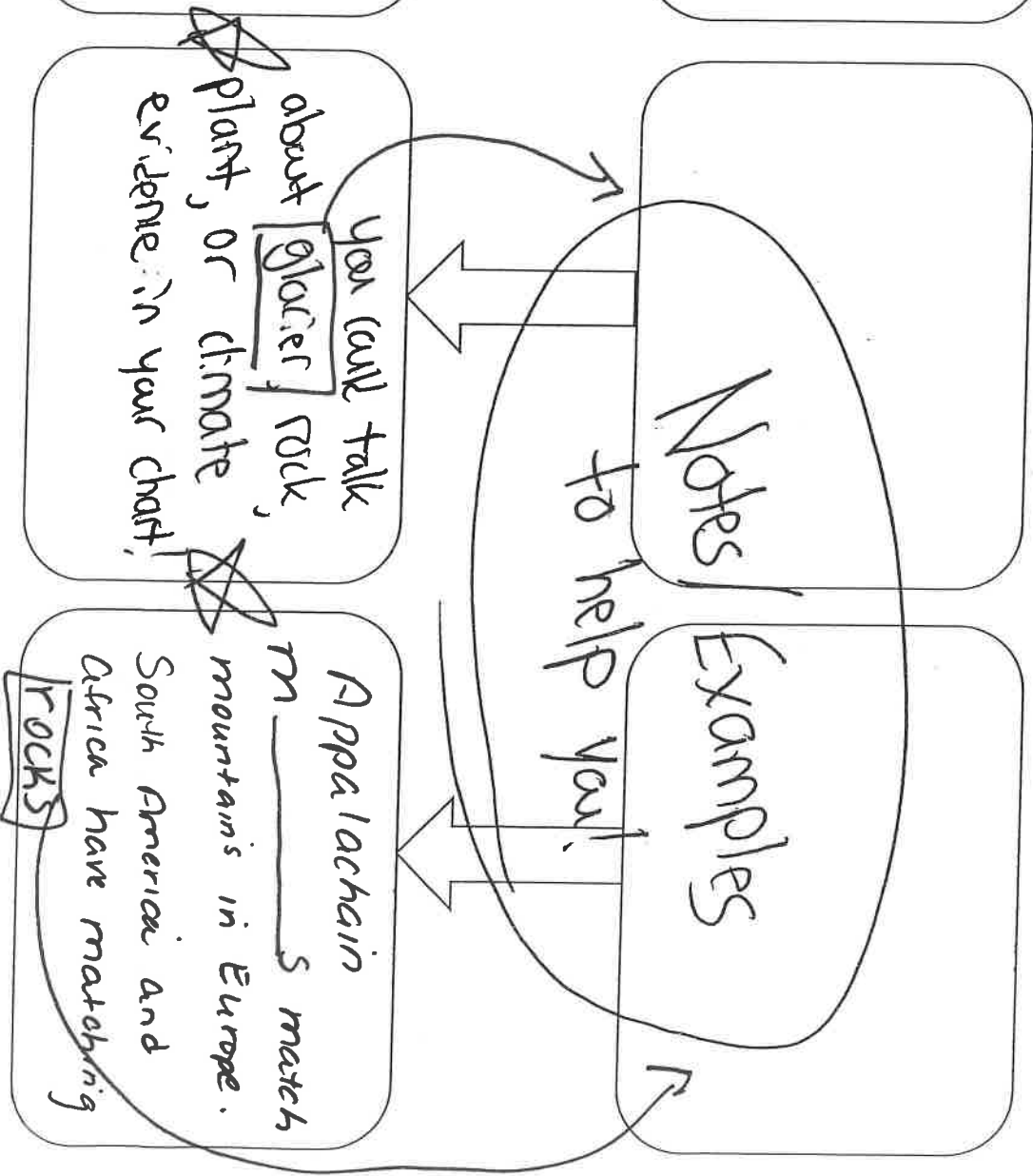
Imagine you are Alfred Wegener in 1915. Write your argument to support Continental Drift  
Continental Drift is the theory that the continents were once together in a large land mass that broke up and split apart.

Evidence

Example: fossils

Reasoning

Example: fossils of the same organism have been found on different continents.



"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

Late Edition

New York: Today, cloudy,  
High 66. Tonight, slightly more  
humid. Low 55. Tomorrow, sun  
then clouds

VOL. CL. No. 51,874

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

75 CENTS

## PANGAEA EXISTS

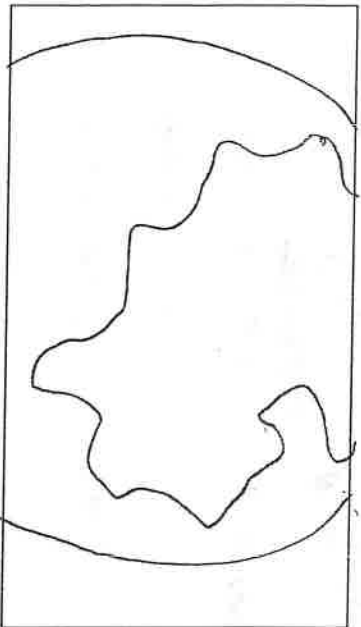
### PUZZLE PIECED TOGETHER BY SCIENTIST

By ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ All of the continents were

once together in a single landmass  
called Pangaea. Pangaea was in existence  
about 200 million years ago.

Since then, the landmass has broken  
apart into their current positions  
today. This is a process I call  
continental drift.

There has been many fossils  
of the same species found in  
continents that aren't even close  
to each other. Fossils of the Mesosaurus  
have been found in both South



America and Africa. These continents  
are really far apart.

Plants also help support the  
idea of continental drift. Plants  
of the same species have been  
found in different countries  
such as: Africa, Australia, India,

Chan

America and Antarctica. It  
means that all of these continents  
were once together and had  
similar climates for the plants.  
Another piece of evidence that  
supports continental drift is rock.  
Many mountain ranges have  
been found to connect to other  
mountains on different continents.  
The Appalachian mountains in America  
seem to connect with the mountains  
found in western Europe. Before  
continental drift, Pangaea did exist

# Seafloor Spreading

### as you read

#### What You'll Learn

- Explain seafloor spreading.
- Recognize how age and magnetic clues support seafloor spreading.

#### Why It's Important

Seafloor spreading helps explain how continents moved apart.

**Review Vocabulary**  
seafloor: portion of Earth's crust that lies beneath ocean waters

**New Vocabulary**  
seafloor spreading

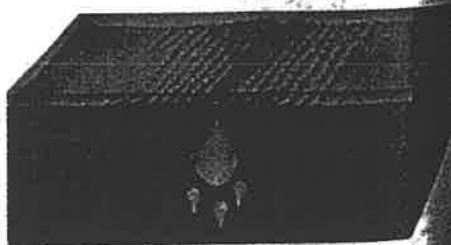
P. 73 #1

### Mapping the Ocean Floor

If you were to lower a rope from a boat until it reached the seafloor, you could record the depth of the ocean at that particular point. In how many different locations would you have to do this to create an accurate map of the seafloor? This is exactly how it was done until World War I, when the use of sound waves was introduced by German scientists to detect submarines. During the 1940s and 1950s, scientists began using sound waves on moving ships to map large areas of the ocean floor in detail. Sound waves echo off the ocean bottom—no longer the sound waves take to return to the ship, the deeper the water is.

Using sound waves, researchers discovered an underwater system of ridges, or mountains, and valleys like those found on the continents. In some of these underwater ridges are long rift valleys where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur from time to time. Some of these volcanoes actually are visible above the ocean surface. In the Atlantic, the Pacific, and in other oceans around the world, a system of ridges, called mid-ocean ridges, is present. These underwater mountain ranges, shown in Figure 5, stretch along the center of much of Earth's ocean floor. This discovery raised the curiosity of many scientists. What formed these mid-ocean ridges?

**Reading Check** How were mid-ocean ridges discovered?



**Figure 5** As the seafloor spreads apart at a mid-ocean ridge, new seafloor is created. The older seafloor moves away from the ridge in opposite directions.

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P. 73 #2

**Seafloor Moves** In the early 1960s, Princeton University scientist Harry Hess suggested an explanation. His now-famous theory is called **seafloor spreading**. Hess proposed that less dense material below Earth's crust flows toward the surface at the mid-ocean ridges. From the ridge it flows sideways, carrying the seafloor from the ridge in both directions, as seen in Figure 5.

As the seafloor spreads apart, magma is forced upward and flows from the cracks. It becomes molten, cools, and forms new seafloor. As new seafloor moves away from the mid-ocean ridge, it contracts, and becomes denser. This denser, colder seafloor sinks, helping to form the trenches. The theory of seafloor spreading was later supported by the following observations.

**Reading Check** How does new seafloor form at mid-ocean ridges?

### Evidence for Spreading

In 1968, scientists aboard the research ship *Glomar Challenger* began gathering information about the rocks on the seafloor. *Glomar Challenger* was equipped with a drilling rig that allowed scientists to drill into the seafloor to obtain rock samples. Scientists found that the youngest rocks are located at the mid-ocean ridges. The ages of the rocks become increasingly older in samples obtained farther from the ridges, adding to the evidence for seafloor spreading.

Using submersibles along mid-ocean ridges, new seafloor organisms and life-forms also were discovered there, as shown in Figure 6. As molten material is forced upward along the ridges, it carries heat and chemicals that support exotic life-forms in the ocean water. Among these are giant clams, mussels, and tube worms.

**Magnetic Clues** Earth's magnetic field has a north and a south pole. Magnetic field lines, of force leave Earth near the south pole and enter Earth near the north pole. During a magnetic reversal, the magnetic force run the opposite way. Scientists have discovered that Earth's magnetic field has reversed itself many times in the past. These reversals occur over intervals of thousands to even millions of years. The reversals are recorded in the magnetic minerals forming along mid-ocean ridges.



**Figure 6** Many new discoveries have been made on the seafloor. These giant tube worms inhabit areas near hot water vents along mid-ocean ridges.

**INTEGRATE**  
**Chemistry**

**Curie Point** Find out what the Curie point is and describe in your Science Journal what happens to iron-bearing minerals when they are heated to the Curie point. Explain how this is important to studies of seafloor spreading.

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# Plate Tectonics

## Section 2 Seafloor Spreading

**Predict** three things that might be discussed in Section 2 after reading its headings.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Review Vocabulary

**Define** seafloor. Then use the word in a sentence.

1. seafloor

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### New Vocabulary

Use your book to define seafloor spreading. Then use the term in a sentence.

2. seafloor spreading

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### Academic Vocabulary

Use a dictionary to define interval. Then use the word in a sentence about magnetic clues to seafloor spreading.

- interval

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Section 2 Seafloor Spreading (continued)

**Main Idea**

**Evidence for Spreading**

I found this information on page \_\_\_\_\_

p. 187-188

choices:

older rock  
(used twice)

and

newer rock  
(used twice)

I found this information on page \_\_\_\_\_

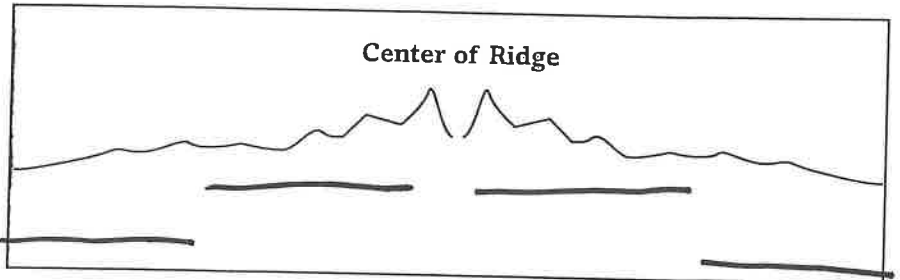
choices:

North Pole

South Pole

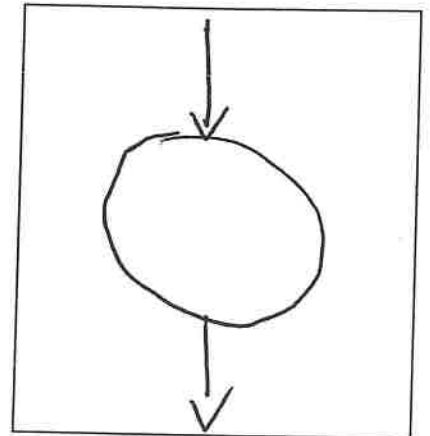
**Details**

Label the diagram below to identify evidence for seafloor spreading. Add arrows to show the direction of spreading, and indicate where older rock and newer rock occur.



Model the polarity of Earth's magnetic field today.

- Draw a sphere to represent Earth.
- Label the north pole and south pole.
- Draw arrows indicating the direction in which magnetic lines of force enter and leave Earth.



Summarize how reversals in the direction of Earth's magnetic field have provided evidence of seafloor spreading.

At times, the lines — force that pass through Earth have reversed — Reversals of Earth's magnetic field are recorded in rock or water that forms along mid-ocean ridges. Scientists can detect magnetized str that are parallel to mid-ocean ridges. This occurs on both sides of the r — s



Using Vocabulary

- asthenosphere p. 190
- continental drift p. 182
- convection current p. 195
- lithosphere p. 190
- Pangaea p. 182
- plate p. 190
- plate tectonics p. 180
- seafloor spreading p. 187

Each phrase below describes a vocabulary term from the list. Write the term that matches the phrase describing it.

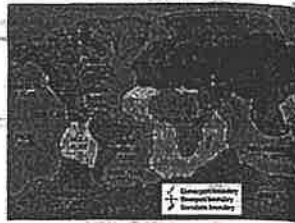
1. plasticlike layer below the lithosphere
2. idea that continents move slowly across Earth's surface
3. large, ancient landmass that consisted of all the continents on Earth
4. composed of oceanic or continental crust and upper mantle
5. explains locations of mountains, trenches, and volcanoes
6. theory proposed by Harry Hess that includes processes along mid-ocean ridges

Checking Concepts

Choose the word or phrase that best answers the question.

7. Which layer of Earth contains the asthenosphere?
  - A) crust
  - B) mantle
  - C) outer core
  - D) inner core
8. What type of plate boundary is the San Andreas Fault part of?
  - A) divergent
  - B) subduction
  - C) convergent
  - D) transform
9. What hypothesis states that continents slowly moved to their present positions on Earth?
  - A) subduction
  - B) erosion
  - C) continental drift
  - D) seafloor spreading

Use the illustration below to answer question 10.



10. Which plate is subducting beneath the South American Plate?
  - A) Nazca
  - B) African
  - C) North American
  - D) Indo-Australian

11. Which of the following features are evidence that many continents were at one time near Earth's south pole?
  - A) glacial deposits
  - B) earthquakes
  - C) volcanoes
  - D) mid-ocean ridges

12. What evidence in rocks supports the theory of seafloor spreading?
  - A) plate movement
  - B) magnetic reversals
  - C) subduction
  - D) convergence

13. Which type of plate boundary is the Atlantic Ridge a part of?
  - A) convergent
  - B) divergent
  - C) transform
  - D) subduction

14. What theory states that plates move around on the asthenosphere?
  - A) continental drift
  - B) seafloor spreading
  - C) subduction
  - D) plate tectonics

Thinking Critically

Why do many earthquakes but few eruptions occur in the Himalaya?

Glacial deposits often form at high latitudes near the poles. Explain why glacial deposits have been found in Africa.

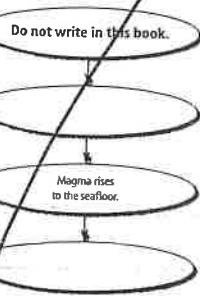
How is magnetism used to support the theory of seafloor spreading?

Why do volcanoes do not form along the San Andreas Fault?

Why would the fossil of an ocean fish found on two different continents would be good evidence of continental drift?

**Hypotheses** Mount St. Helens in the Cascade Range is a volcano. Use Figure 9 on the U.S. map to hypothesize how it might have formed.

**Map** Make an events-chain concept map that describes seafloor spreading along a divergent plate boundary. Choose from the following phrases: *magma cools to form new seafloor, convection currents pull hot material along divergent boundary, and older seafloor is forced apart.*



Performance Activities

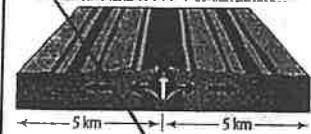
22. **Observe and Infer** In the MiniLab called "Modeling Convection Currents," you observed convection currents produced when water as it was heated. Repeat the experiment, placing sequins, pieces of wood, or pieces of rubber band into the water. How do their movements support your observations and inferences from the MiniLab?

Applying Math

23. **A Growing Rift** Movement along the African Rift Valley is about 2.1 cm per year. If plates continue to move apart at this rate, how much larger will the rift be (in meters) in 1,000 years? In 15,500 years?

Use the illustration below to answer questions 24 and 25.

- Normal magnetic polarity
- Reversed magnetic polarity
- Mid-ocean ridge



24. **New Seafloor** 10 km of new seafloor has been created in 50,000 years, with 5 km on each side of a mid-ocean ridge. What is the rate of movement, in km per year, of each plate? In cm per year?
25. **Use a Ratio** If 10 km of seafloor were created in 50,000 years, how many kilometers of seafloor were created in 10,000 years? How many years will it take to create a total of 30 km of seafloor?