

## Earth and Life History

Name:

### Plate Tectonics

Period:

Use Chapter 9, Section 2 of your textbook to answer the questions below. The word banks can be used to fill out the sentences below them.

apart earthquakes fingernails plate boundaries plate tectonics tectonic plates  
thousands towards

#### Section 2: Earth's Changing Continents (p.270)

1. We can feel the surface of Earth move during \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Plate Tectonics

2. The surface of Earth is broken up into blocks called \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. What happens as Earth's mantle drags on the bottom of tectonic plates?  
a. The plates move.      b. The plates spin.      c. The plates sink.      d. The plates rise.

4. Most tectonic plates move about as fast as your \_\_\_\_\_ grow.

5. Throughout Earth's history, plates have moved \_\_\_\_\_ of miles.

6. The theory of \_\_\_\_\_ explains how Earth's tectonic plates move and change shape.



#### Where Tectonic Plates Meet (p.271)

7. The places where two or more tectonic plates meet are called \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Convergent Boundaries

8. At a convergent boundary, tectonic plates move \_\_\_\_\_ each other.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. What forms if plates of continental lithosphere are forced together?  
a. mountain belts      b. a line of volcanoes      c. a new sea      d. earthquakes

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. What may form if oceanic lithosphere sinks at a convergent boundary?  
a. mountain belts      b. a line of volcanoes      c. a new sea      d. earthquakes

#### Divergent Boundaries

11. At a divergent boundary, tectonic plates move \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. What is a giant crack in the lithosphere called?  
a. a volcano      b. a fissure      c. a fault      d. a rift

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. What forms if a rift tears apart a continent, then widens for millions of years?  
a. mountain belts      b. a line of volcanoes      c. a new sea      d. earthquakes



**turn over for more questions**

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horizontally San Andreas Fault

**Transform Boundaries (p.271)**

14. At a transform boundary, tectonic plates move \_\_\_\_\_ past each other.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. What can be caused by the movement of tectonic plates at a transform boundary?

- a. mountain belts
- b. a line of volcanoes
- c. a new sea
- d. earthquakes

16. A very famous transform boundary in California is called the \_\_\_\_\_ .