

## Plate Tectonics Review Questions

1. What is plate tectonics in your own words?

The Earth's crust is broken into pieces called "Lithospheric Plates" that "float" over top the asthenosphere. These plates move relative to one another as magma circulates underneath. As the plates move, they affect one another by placing stress along the boundaries. Plates exhibit 3 types of motion; they can divide, collide, or slide past each other.

2. What are the three types of plate boundaries?

a. Divergent

b. Convergent

c. Transform

3. What kind of motion would be expected at a convergent plate boundary?

The plates move together – squeezing the rock and/or making the rock sink back down into the mantle.

4. Generally, how fast is the motion of the plates? 2-3 cm per year or 1 inch per year

5. What kind of motion would be expected at a transform fault boundary?

The plates slide past and along each other horizontally.

6. What drives the motion of the plates?

Heat from the core of Earth is being transferred to the colder surface. As this material circulates inside the asthenosphere (hotter material moves toward the crust and colder material moves toward the core), the solid lithosphere moves along with the convection currents.

7. What is the name of the process that occurs at the mid ocean ridge?

Sea – Floor Spreading (SFS)

8. What kind of motion would be expected at a divergent boundary?

The plates are dividing and moving apart from one another

9. Describe what may become of the East African Rift Valley in millions of years.

The rift valley is caused by tension along a divergent boundary. Over time, the valley will continue to widen and separate eventually forming a new ocean with a mid-ocean ridge at the center.

10. What is happening to Iceland?

Iceland was built along the mid-Atlantic ridge and is separating about 1 inch per year. The island is being built from an east to west direction.

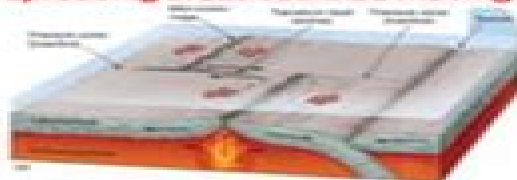
11. What is going on in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean?

Sea-Floor Spreading is creating a mid-ocean ridge widening the Atlantic Ocean.

12. On average, in ten years, how much bigger will the Atlantic Ocean be? About 10 inches

13. How could two plates moving in the same direction cause a transform fault?

A fracture zone along a mid-ocean ridge has different rates of spreading. The area between two spreading areas could be moving horizontally opposite to each other as a result.



# Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers

**Laura Greenstein**



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## **Table of Contents Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers**

1. Understanding the eBook Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers User Reviews and Ratings
  - Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers Free and Paid eBooks
  - Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers Public Domain eBooks
  - Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers eBook Subscription Services
  - Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers eBook Formats

- ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
- Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers Compatibility with Devices
- Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Interactive Elements Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
- 8. Staying Engaged with Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Setting Reading Goals Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Skills Concept Review Plate Tectonics Answers
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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