Plate boundaries:

- The Earth's crust is broken into different plates, which sit on the Earth's mantle.
- These plates move because of **convection currents**.
- The plates move in different directions and meet at plate boundaries.
- As the plates move, parts of the crust are **destroyed** and in other areas new crust is **created**.



Different types of plate boundary:

- There are three different types of plate boundary: **destructive**, **constructive** and **conservative**. Which type they are depends on how the plates move at this boundary.
- Different plate boundaries have different landforms, such as volcanoes and fold mountains.

Boundary	Movement	Diagram	Example	Landforms
Destructive	The plates either collide or the oceanic plate subducts under the continential plate.		The Nazca plate being forced under the South American plate.	Volcanoes Fold mountains Earthquakes
Constructive	The plates move apart.		The African plate and the South American plate.	Volcanoes
Conservative	The plates move alongside each other.		The Pacific plate and the North American plate.	Earthquakes

Key words and terms:

Plate boundaries:

Where two or more tectonic plates meet.

Conservative:

A plate boundary where two plates slide past one another.

Constructive:

A plate boundary where two plates are moving apart.

Destructive:

A plate boundary where two plates are colliding.

Magma:

Molten rock from the mantle before it reaches the surface of the earth.

Lava:

Molten rock released from the earth's core by a volcano.

Fold Mountains:

Mountains formed at collision zones, where two continental plates move towards each other.

Volcano:

A vent in the earth's crust from which lava, ash and gas is released.

Earthquake:

A sudden shaking of the ground, caused by movement in the earth's crust.