

## PLATE TECTONICS

### What is Plate Tectonics?

**Earth's Lithosphere**-the **outermost layer of the Earth** and it is made up of crust and the upper part of the mantle.

#### Crust

- the **outer portion** of the Earth.
- average density of **2.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>**
- thickness ranges from **5 to 50 km**.
- made of a variety of solid rocks like:
  - **Sedimentary** (forms from sediments compaction)
  - **Metamorphic** (forms by transformation of other rock)
  - **Igneous** (forms from magma or lava solidification)

#### Two kinds of crust:

##### 1. **Continental Crust**

- the **thick part** of the Earth's crust.
- not located under the oceans**.
- the **thicker but less dense**

##### 2. **Oceanic Crust**

- the **thin part** of the Earth's crust - **located under the oceans**.
- the **thinner but dense** .

#### Plate Tectonics Theory

The Earth's crust is broken segments in **(plates)** that move very slowly but constantly **(tectonics)**.

**Plate Tectonics**-a theory which suggests that Earth's crust is made up of plates that interact in various ways, thus producing earthquakes, mountains, volcanoes, and other geologic features.

#### Seven large plates:

1. North American Plate
2. South American Plate
3. Pacific Plate -largest plate
4. African Plate
5. Eurasian Plate
6. Antarctic Plate
7. Australian Plate.

#### 8 Minor plates:

1. Indian Plate
2. Arabian Plate
3. Scotia Plate
4. Cocos Plate
5. Philippine Plate
6. Caribbean Plate
7. Juan De Fuca Plate
8. Nazca Plate

#### What are the effects of plate movement?

- Earthquakes
- Formation of Volcanoes
- Formation of Mountains/Mountain Ranges

#### Earthquake

-**vibration of Earth** due to the rapid release of energy.  
-releases **three (3) types of seismic waves**;



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