

# Free epub Earth science plate tectonics study guide answers (PDF)

plate tectonics theory dealing with the dynamics of earth's outer shell the lithosphere that revolutionized earth sciences by providing a uniform context for understanding mountain building processes volcanoes and earthquakes as well as the evolution of earth's surface and reconstructing its past continents and oceans plate tectonics describes how earth's entire 100 kilometer thick outermost layer called the lithosphere is broken into a jigsaw puzzle of plates slabs of rock bearing both continents and plate tectonics from latin tectonicus from ancient greek τεκτονικός tektonikós pertaining to building is the scientific theory that earth's lithosphere comprises a number of large tectonic plates which have been slowly moving since about 3.4 billion years ago plate tectonics is a scientific theory that explains how major landforms are created as a result of earth's subterranean movements the theory which solidified in the 1960s transformed the earth sciences by explaining many phenomena including mountain building events volcanoes and earthquakes the theory of plate tectonics explains processes in the geosphere that are fueled by earth's internal heat that have operated over billions of years these changes can be imperceptible over a human lifetime or violent and abrupt and continue to shape earth's environments global change infographic new research analyzing pieces of the most ancient rocks on the planet adds some of the sharpest evidence yet that earth's crust was pushing and pulling in a manner similar to modern plate tectonics at least 3.25 billion years ago the study also provides the earliest proof of when the planet's magnetic north and south poles swapped places tectonic evidence for plate tectonics indicates independent plate motion or rotation or else describes large scale geological features that were created by dominantly horizontal tectonic forces evidence for the former is readily provided by paleomagnetism although this technique can be challenging to apply to rocks formed on the early earth plate tectonics theory that the earth's lithosphere the crust and upper portion of the mantle is divided into about 12 large plates and several small ones that float on and travel independently over the asthenosphere we hypothesize that the development of modern plate tectonics is linked to secular cooling of the mantle and associated changes in the thickness buoyancy and rheology of oceanic lithosphere plate tectonics development theory earth britannica contents home science earth science geologic time fossils earth sciences development of tectonic theory precursors the outlines of

the continents flanking the atlantic ocean are so similar that their correspondence was apparent as soon as accurate maps became available key points earth s lithosphere or outermost shell is broken up into large pieces called tectonic plates these plates move slowly over the asthenosphere a layer of softer rock below the lithosphere on average tectonic plates move a few centimeters per year the place where two plates meet is called a plate boundary plate tectonics refers to the global system of coupled boundaries along mid ocean ridges subduction zones and transform faults on earth it operates through continental drift seafloor spreading and lithospheric subduction shaping the earth surface throughout geological time over 200 million years pangea broke apart and the pieces drifted into the continents we know today so if the plates move so slowly how do we know that they move at all scientists have documented evidence from various features on earth that support the theory of plate tectonics today these earthquake zones are called wadati benioff zones john tuzo wilson based on the mounting evidence the theory of plate tectonics continued to take shape j tuzo wilson was the first scientist to put the entire picture together by proposing the opening and closing of the ocean basins plate tectonics thus provides the big picture of geology it explains how mountain ranges earthquakes volcanoes shorelines and other features tend to form where the moving plates interact along their boundaries continental drift and the development of plate tectonic theory plate tectonics find data a theory of global tectonics in which the lithosphere is divided into a number of plates whose pattern of horizontal movement is that of torsionally rigid bodies that interact with one another at their boundaries causing seismic and tectonic activity along these boundaries plate tectonics is a theory of geology it explains movement of the earth s lithosphere the lithosphere is the earth s crust and the upper part of the mantle the lithosphere is divided into plates some of which are very large and can be entire continents heat from the mantle is the source of energy driving plate tectonics 1 tectonics is the study of the origin and arrangement of the broad structural features of earth s surface including folds and faults mountain ranges continents earthquake belts the basic premise of plate tectonics is that the earth s surface is divided into a few large thick plates that move slowly and change in size 2 plate tectonic theory study guide 1 who was alfred wegner developed the theory of continental drift and was the first to propose the theory of plate tectonics 2 where do crustal features such as volcanoes and mountains form on earth along plate boundaries where two tectonic plates meet 3 what is the theory of continental drift plate tectonics describes seismic activity volcanism mountain building and various other earth processes in terms of the structure and mechanical behaviour of a small number of enormous rigid plates thought to constitute the outer part of the planet i e the lithosphere

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