



Plate Tectonic Cycle

Earth's Moving Force



	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
Volcanoes (1 week)	Volcanoes Produce Rocks	Volcanoes have Definite Shapes	Products of Volcanoes	Creating Rocks from Lava	3 Basic Types of Volcanoes	Volcanoes produce Different Rocks	Location of Volcanoes
Earthquakes (1 week)	Shaking during an Earthquake	Earthquakes Release Energy	Earthquake Faults	Seismic Waves cause Damage	Measuring Earthquake Intensities	Wave Movements and Seismograms	Dividing the Earth by Waves
Plate Tectonics (1 week)	Continents and Oceans	Moving Continents	Evidence from Continents	Pressure in the Earth	Diverging, Converging, Transform Boundaries	Crustal Movement	Definition of Plate Boundaries
Hazards (1 week)	Earthquakes and Volcanoes cause Damage	Volcanic Eruptions	Where of you go for Help?	Historical Damage (Volcanoes)	Damage during Earthquakes	Mudslides and Volcanoes	"Earthquake Proof" Structures

Plate Tectonics Cycle at a Glance

In the Plate Tectonic Cycle, students learn about the Earth's dynamics as it spins on its axis, revolving around the Sun. The Earth is restless inside, as it tries to cool its interior. Material inside the Earth become viscous and flow in certain areas. Movement within the Earth's interior is reflected on the outside crust. Convection currents inside the mantle (area between the crust and the outer core) create 2 types of crustal movements. When convections currents come together, convergent plate boundaries (earthquakes) are formed on the Earth's crust. When the convection currents pull the crust apart in two different directions divergent plate boundaries (volcanoes and earthquakes) are formed. A consequence of the Earth's surface moving faster along the equator than at the poles creates tension which in part forms transform boundaries.

In the Classroom

Hands-on activities teach students how scientists investigate the Earth through earthquakes and volcanoes. They learn to challenge and think about different theories. Learning about how to cope with the disasters caused by plate tectonics is also emphasized.