What Happens When You Dig Straight Down?

How deep have we gone?

The deepest humans have dug:

- 12,262 meters deep! (~12 km)
- The Kola Superdeep Borehole built in Russia by the Soviet Union, beginning in 1970.
- The project was to dig through the Earth's crust.
- Drilling stopped in 1989, at **12,262 meters** deep.
- @ 12,262 m, the temp was **180'C**.

HOT





Wait! How do we know the Earth really is a sphere?



Wait! How do we know the Earth really is a sphere?

• Proofs that the Earth is Round:

- Ships appearing to sink as they go over the horizon.
- The Earth's shadow on the moon during an eclipse is always curved. This could only be possible if the Earth was a sphere.
- Different time zones.
- Different angles to Polaris as you travel N. or S.
- Photos from space- the best proof.

The Earth is divided into four layers 1. The CRUST 3. The OUTER CORE 2. The MANTLE 4. The INNER CORE



- There are two types of Crust:
 - a) Continental Crust (30 50 km thick)
 - Less dense rocks (eg. granite, sandstone)
 - -b) Oceanic Crust (5 -10 km thick)
 - More dense rocks (eg. basalt, gabbro)



- The Mantle is a plastic layer of rocks and magma about 2900 km thick.
- Over 1000'C.
- The Crust 'floats' on the Mantle.
- Convection within the Mantle cause the plates to move._{Mid-Atlantic Ridge}



- The Outer Core is molten liquid iron.
- 2900 to 5000 km deep
- Over 4000'C
- Convection in the Outer Core (along with the rotation of the Earth) creates Earth's Magnetic Field.

The OUTER CORE



- A solid sphere of iron (and nickel), suspended in the liquid Outer Core.
- 5000 km to 6400 km deep.
- Over 5000'C. Very Hot!

The INNER CORE







WE NEED A <u>UNIFYING THEORY</u>

- We know the **structure** of the Earth...
- We know **earthquakes** happen...
- We know **volcanoes** happen...
- We know **mountains** and **oceans** exist...

but WHY?

Alfred Wegener had an idea -1912-

Hmm, the continents look like they can fit together like a jigsaw puzzle!

They must have originally been there, then moved! They drifted away!

-I know! CONTINENTAL DRIFT!





Continental Drift

The **idea** that the continents were originally together and drifted away from each other.



PANGEA

A Supercontinent

• Wergener invented the idea that all the continents were once joined together, in a supercontinent! **Pangea**!



•<u>Supporting Evidence</u>: **1. JIGSAW COASTLINES**





Pangaea



Pangea (with modern countries)



Evidence for Continental Drift

2. FOSSIL EVIDENCE

• Fossils of animals are found in many different continents (which were connected in the past!)



Copyright © The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. Permission required for reproduction or display.

Eg: Mesosaurus are found in South America and Africa. -Did he swim across an ocean? -Did one species of critter randomly evolve 3000 km apart?

South America

Evidence for Continental Drift

3. PALEO-GLACIATION

• Deposits from past glaciers in South America, Africa, Madagascar, Arabia, India, Australia, and Antarctica is evidence that they were once

connected!



4. MOUNTAIN CHAINS



5. ROCKS (same Geology)



cratons

Areas of geologica

continents

younger mountain belts

Reaction to Continental Drift...

In 1912, everyone rejected Wergener's theory. "Not enough evidence! Go back to meteorology!" |"but HOW did the continents move?"

"Land bridges ftw!"

Debate over Continental Drift raged for decades, until more **evidence** led the way to the most ground-breaking theory in Earth Science...

Evidence from Sea-Floor Spreading

SEAFLOOR SPREADING



- The study of the ocean floor intensified after WWII with <u>sonar</u>.
- Geologist and naval officer **Harry Hess** proposed the idea that not only do the continents drift, but the ocean floor does too!





Mapping the Seafloor...

Location map



(b) A bathymetric profile along line X–X' illustrates how mid-ocean ridges rise above abyssal plains. Both are deeper than continental shelves.

Seafloor Spreading (F)



Evidence for Seafloor Spreading:

1. AGE OF ROCKS

The igneous rocks of the seafloor *-basalt-* get **older** as you move away from the spreading center (*ridge*).





Modern ocean floors colour-coded by geological age

The crust either side of the spreading centres becomes progressively older. Note how the floor of the Pacific Ocean has been subducting eastwards under North and South America.

Evidence for Seafloor Spreading

2. PALEOMAGNETISM Vine-Matthews-Morley hypothesis (1963)

- Earth has a magnetic field generated by the flow of liquid metal in the Outer Core.
- Every so often

 (1-5 million years),
 magnetic field polarity
 reversal happens...



- ...and the direction of polarity is locked into the igneous rocks (lava) when they form!
- As the polarity reversals happen, bands of normal polarity rocks <u>alternate</u> with bands of reversed polarity rocks on the seafloor. MID-OCEAN RIDGE







As magma solidifies along the edge of the oceanic plate it preserves a magnetic record of the Earth's magnetic field at that time. In this case, the north magnetic pole is in the northern hemisphere.





At the present time, rocks record a normal pattern because the north magnetic pole is in the northern hemisphere.
Evidence from **Continental Drift** and **Seafloor Spreading** led the way to the most ground-breaking theory in Earth Science...

PLATE TECTONICS! (published in 1965)

History of Plate Tectonics

• In the 1960's, the old idea of **Continental Drift** was merged with the new idea of **Seafloor Spreading** to create a new, unifying theory – <u>Plate Tectonics</u>!



Continental Drift + Seafloor Spreading = <u>Plate Tectonics</u>

The Theory of **Plate Tectonics**

- A. The surface of the Earth is divided into large tectonic plates.
- B. These tectonic plates are always moving.
- C. Movement at the **plate boundaries** create features, such as <u>mountains, ocean</u> <u>trenches, volcanoes</u> and earthquakes.



What is a 'Plate'?

• A plate is a large piece of the **lithosphere**, which 'floats' on the **asthenosphere**.



The Earth's outer layer is called the lithosphere. It is made of the rigid upper mantle and the crust. The lithosphere moves on the asthenosphere, part of the mantle that flows.

How do we know where the <u>edges</u> of the Plates are?



VOLCANOES AND EARTHQUAKES

• The location of **volcanoes** and **earthquakes** often indicate the <u>edges</u> of the plates:





triangles = volcanoes
dots = earthquakes



How do the Plates MOVE?

- Mantle <u>convection</u> within the asthenosphere.
- The theory of Plate Tectonics states that the plates move due to **CONVECTION** of heated rock in the **liquid mantle**!

But what is

'Convection?'



How Liquid Motion Lamps Work





- Convection currents in the mantle "**ridge push**" and "**slab pull**" the crustal plates.
- <u>New crust is created where plates move apart!</u>



Magma upwelling and pushing plates apart at mid-ocean ridges. Plate pulled down by gravity at trenches in subduction zones.

PLATE TECTONICS #3 Plate Boundaries



The Earth's outer layer is called the lithosphere. It is made of the rigid upper mantle and the crust. The lithosphere moves on the asthenosphere, part of the mantle that flows.



What happens at **Plate Boundaries**?



Crustal Plate Boundaries

Which way are each plate **moving**? What **features** does this movement cause?

PLATE BOUNDARIES

- There are three types of boundaries between tectonic plates:
 - 1. **DIVERGENT plate boundary**
 - 2. CONVERGENT plate boundary
 - 3. TRANSFORM plate boundary



DIVERGENT Plate Boundary

1. DIVERGENT plate boundary

- The plates move **APART** from each other.
- As the plates separate, fresh new magma rises and cools, creating NEW oceanic crust!



DIVERGENT plate boundary

- If under <u>oceanic crust</u>
 Sea-Floor Spreading and Ocean Ridges.
 »Eg. Mid-Atlantic Ridge
 - and Iceland!
 - »Hydrothermal vents occur.
- If under <u>continental crust</u>
 = Rift Valley.
 »Eg. Africa's Great Rift
 - Valley!











MID-OCEAN RIDGE

CONVERGENT Plate Boundary

2. <u>CONVERGENT</u> plate boundary

- The plates move **TOGETHER**.
- There are <u>three</u> types of converging plate boundary:
 - a. Continental crust Continental crust. (C C)

(C - O)

(O - O)

- b. Continental crust Oceanic crust
- c. Oceanic crust Oceanic crust

CONVERGENT plate boundary a. Continental - Continental

- Creates <u>MOUNTAINS</u>!
- Causes lots of <u>Earthquakes</u>.
 - Eg. The India Plate is pushing northward into China at about 5cm/year. The Himalayan Mountains (and Mount Everest) are the result!









CONVERGENT plate boundary **b. Continental - Oceanic**

- Creates a <u>Subduction Zone</u> = the denser Oceanic Plate slides under the less-dense Continental Plate, creating a deep-sea **trench**.
- Causes lots of <u>Earthquakes</u>, some very deep.
- Causes lots of <u>Volcanoes</u>!



Subduction Zone



• Eg. The **Juan de Fuca Plate** is subducting below the North American Plate. The oceanic plate melts as it sinks; creating magma that moves up and erupts, making volcanoes such as Mount St. Helens.



CONVERGENT plate boundary c. Oceanic - Oceanic

- Creates a <u>Volcanic Island Arc</u> = one of the oceanic plates subducts under the other, melts, and the magma rises to create a chain of volcanoes, and a parallel deep-sea **trench**.
- Causes Earthquakes
- Causes chains of volcanic islands.



Oceanic-oceanic convergence





Eg. The *Philippine Plate* is subducting under the *Pacific Plate*, creating the Mariana Trench (the deepest trench in the oceans! –11,035 m)

The Mariana Islands (and Guam) run parallel to the trench.

• In March 2012, James Cameron explored to the very bottom of the trench.









DIBITALLY THE MARTERED

TRANSFORM Plate Boundary

3. <u>TRANSFORM</u> plate boundary

- The plates **SLIDE** past each other.
 - Two plates slide laterally creating a <u>FAULT</u>.
 - Causes lots of **Earthquakes**!
 - NO volcanoes.



TRANSFORM plate boundary **The San Andreas Fault**



Eg. The North American Plate is sliding past the *Pacific Plate*, creating **The** San Andreas Fault, which moves 5cm/ year, and causes all the earthquakes in LA and San Francisco!


1989 and 1994 California Earthquakes





Caused by movement on the San Andreas Fault

To Remember...

- 3 Types of Plate Boundary:
 - **Divergent** (away from)
 - In Ocean Crust => *Ridge* or Continental Crust => *Rift*
 - <u>Convergent</u> (towards)
 - 3 Types of Converging Boundary
 - Continental Continental => Mountain Building
 - Continental Oceanic => Subduction Zone
 - Oceanic Oceanic => Island Arc, Ocean Trench
 - Transform (slide past)
- Volcanoes and Earthquakes occur at plate boundaries. Which ones?

- Mantle plumes, huge upward motions of magma in the middle of plates, push up and create volcanic islands.
- As the plate moves, the hotspot below doesn't, resulting in the formation of a chain of islands, each getting older as it moves away from the hotspot

Hot Spots



• John Tuzo-Wilson









- Show the relationship between concepts.
- Connecting lines have words such as: "results in" or "is caused by"…
- Pictures are also used to demonstrate knowledge.





