

13B

ACTIVITY

NAME _____

CLASS _____ DATE _____

Plate Boundaries

The place where two plates meet is called a **plate boundary**. Plate boundaries are described by the motions of the two plates. In this activity, you will study the boundaries of the plates that form Earth's surface.

- To recognize the boundaries of Earth's plates and their direction of motion
- Physical World Map, Continents and Ocean Floor, Appendix B, pages 656–657 of your text
- Figure 13.1 on page 233 of your text

1. Plates that carry continents are called continental plates, while plates that do not carry continents are called ocean plates. Which plates shown on the Physical World map are continental plates? (Refer to textbook Figure 13.1 to identify plate names.)

2. Look at the continental plates and the ocean plates on the Physical World map. Are the continental plates made up of only continental crust? Are the ocean plates made up of only ocean crust? Explain your answer.

1. Based on the plate boundaries shown on the map, what is the name of the largest tectonic plate? Is it an ocean plate or a continental plate?

2. Name the converging boundaries of the plate in question 1.

3. Name at least two diverging plate boundaries shown on the Physical World map.

4. Compare the shape of the diverging and the converging plate boundaries.

5. The continent of South America is moving in a westerly direction. In what direction is the ocean plate directly west of South America moving? Explain your answer.
