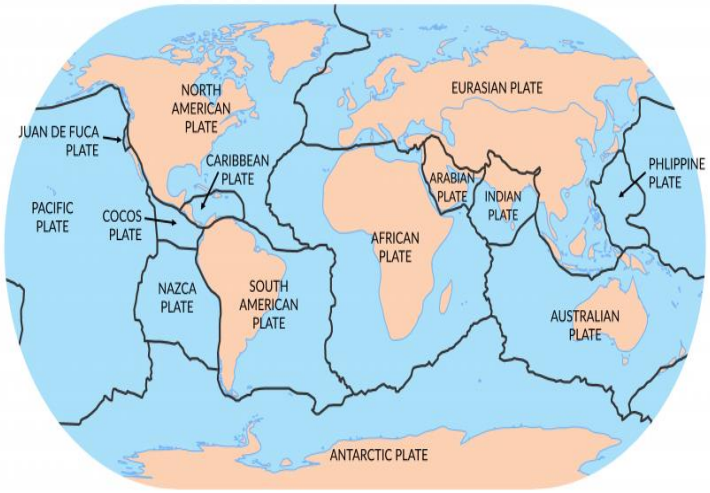
Geography – Volcanoes, Mountains and Earthquakes – Year 6 – Spring 1

Vocabulary Top Ten:

Continent	One of the seven huge land areas that make up our world.
Crater	A large, bowl-shaped hole at the very top of a volcano, acting as its "mouth".
Earthquake	The sudden, rapid shaking of the ground caused by tectonic plates moving.
Magma	An extremely hot, liquid, and semi-liquid rock found deep beneath the Earth's surface.
Magnitude	The size, amount or importance of something.
Pacific Ring of Fire	An area known for having 75% of Earth's active volcanoes and 90% of its earthquakes.
Pangea	A massive "supercontinent" that existed over 200 million years ago. Meaning "all Earth" in Greek
Plate boundary	The edge where two of the Earth's tectonic plates meet and interact.
Richter Scale	Used by scientists to measure how strong or powerful an earthquake is.
Tectonic plates	Massive, puzzle-like pieces of solid rock that make up the Earth's outer shell (crust).

Tectonic Plates

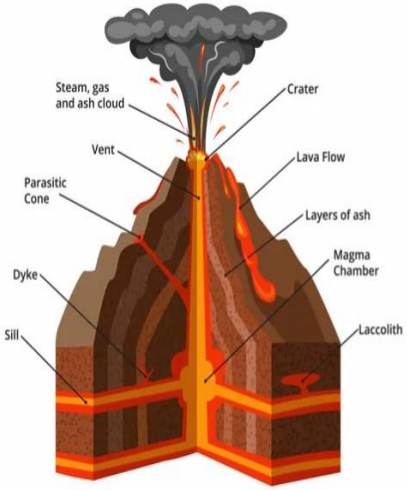
Tectonic plates are large pieces of the Earth's surface that fit together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. They move very slowly and can push together, slide past, or pull apart. This movement causes earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountains, shaping the land we live on.



Mountains

Mountains are big areas of land that are much higher than the land around them. Mountains are formed at tectonic plate boundaries when the plates move apart or push together. This causes the land to fold or rise up, creating mountains.

Volcanoes



Volcanoes are usually formed at the edges of tectonic plates. When tectonic plates move apart or push together, volcanoes can form. This happens because the Earth's surface is broken into pieces, and the movement of these pieces lets magma rise up and create a volcano.

Earthquakes





Earthquakes happen because the Earth's tectonic plates move. Sometimes, two plates crash into each other or slide past each other. Over time, this causes friction that builds up energy. When the energy is released all at once, it creates shock waves, which we feel as an earthquake.