

# **Plate Tectonics**

## **Chapter 9.2**

# I. Theory of Plate Tectonics

- 7 major *lithospheric* plates.
- Lithosphere = upper mantle and crust.
- Plates change shape and size as they move across the Earth.

## II. Plate Boundaries

- The place where two or more plates meet.
- Plate boundaries is where the “action” is.  
(action = earthquakes and volcanoes)
- 3 Main Types

# 1. Divergent Boundaries

- Plates are spreading apart.
- New lithosphere is created

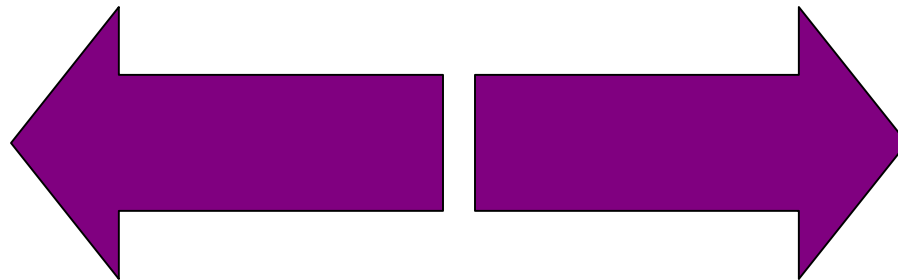
**Ocean:** Creates new ocean floor

= **“Seafloor Spreading”**

(Ex. mid-Atlantic Ridge)

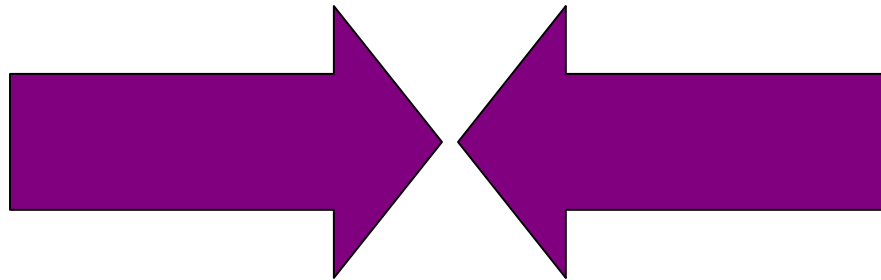
**On Land:** Splits apart continents

(East African Rift Valley, Baja CA)



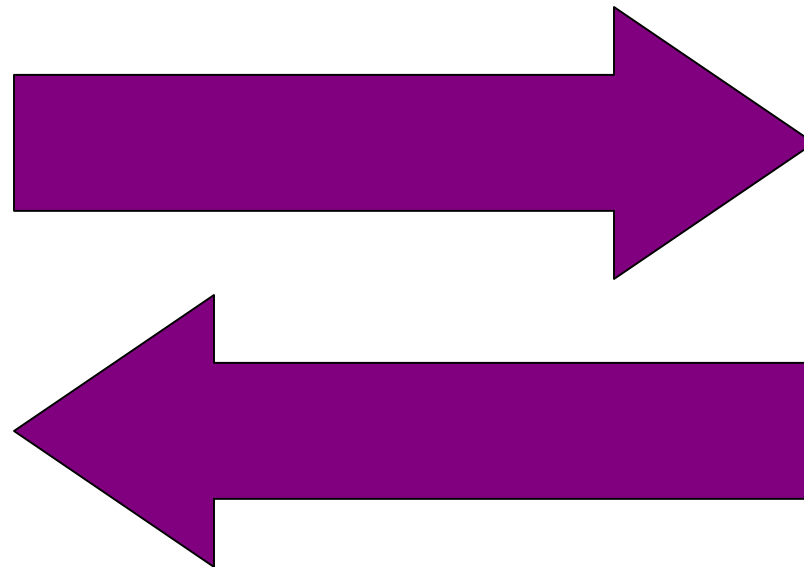
## 2. Convergent Boundaries

- Plates are crashing together.
- Lithosphere is destroyed.



# 3. Transform Fault Boundaries

- Plates slide past each other.
- Lithosphere is not created or destroyed.



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1. Find a major plate that includes an entire continent plus a large area of seafloor.
  2. Name 2 examples of divergent boundaries.
  3. How do you think the Andes Mountains were formed?
  4. Which plate do we live on?
  5. Which plate is Baja CA on?
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