

Skills Worksheet

Directed Reading – 10.2

Section: The Theory of Plate Tectonics

1. The theory that explains why and how continents move is called _____

2. By what time period was evidence supporting continental drift, which led to the development of plate tectonics, developed?

HOW CONTINENTS MOVE

In the space provided, write the letter of the definition that best matches the term or phrase.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| _____ 3. oceanic crust | a. the solid outer layer of Earth, that consists of the crust and the rigid upper part of the mantle |
| _____ 4. continental crust | b. dense crust made of rock that is rich in iron and magnesium |
| _____ 5. tectonic plates | c. blocks of Earth's shell that ride on a deformable layer of the mantle |
| _____ 6. lithosphere | d. solid, plastic layer of the mantle beneath the lithosphere |
| _____ 7. asthenosphere | e. low-density crust made of rock that is rich in silica |

8. What is "plastic" rock and how does it move?

9. Describe how continents and oceans are carried on tectonic plates.

TECTONIC PLATES

10. How many major tectonic plates have scientists identified?

11. Why are the boundaries of the tectonic plates not always easy to identify?

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