

Plate Boundaries

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will model and distinguish convergent, divergent, and transform plate boundaries.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- modeling clay or play dough (2 contrasting colors)
- a table or flat surface
- paper
- pen or pencil

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Flatten two different-colored pieces of clay into slabs to represent two tectonic plates.
2. Push the two slabs toward each other on a table to model a convergent boundary; observe and sketch what happens (one may fold up or slide under the other).
3. Pull the two slabs apart to model a divergent boundary; observe and sketch the gap/crack that forms, noting where new material would form.
4. Slide the two slabs past each other sideways (in opposite directions) to model a transform boundary; observe and sketch the friction/grinding effect.

QUESTIONS

1. What happens at a convergent boundary, and what real-world landform can this create?

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2. What happens at a divergent boundary, and what real-world example uses this process?

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3. What happens at a transform boundary, and what natural hazard is it most associated with?
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4. Which of the 3 boundary types do you think would be most dangerous to live near, and why?
