

Plate Tectonics in Action: Final Project

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will synthesize the quarter's concepts by explaining a real natural disaster's tectonic cause in a visual format.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- poster board or large paper
- colored pencils or markers
- ruler
- internet-connected device or book for one fact-check (optional)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose one real natural event from this quarter's topics (an earthquake, volcanic eruption, or mountain-building event) tied to a specific real place (e.g., the 2011 Japan earthquake, Mount St. Helens, the Himalayas).
2. On poster board, draw a labeled cross-section diagram showing the type of plate boundary involved and the plates' movement with arrows, using a ruler for straight boundary lines.
3. Create a 4-6 panel comic strip or sequence of drawings around the diagram showing: the setup (plates before), the tectonic action (what moved and how), the event itself (eruption/quake/mountain forming), and the result (aftermath).
4. Write a 3-5 sentence caption underneath explaining the cause-and-effect chain in your own words, using at least 3 vocabulary terms from this quarter (e.g., plate boundary, compression, subduction, magma, fault).

QUESTIONS

1. What real event did you choose, and what type of plate boundary caused it?
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2. List the 3 or more vocabulary terms you used in your caption.
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3. Explain the cause-and-effect chain of your event in 2-3 sentences.
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4. **Looking back at this quarter's models (Earth's layers, rock layers, plate boundaries, earthquakes, volcanoes, folding), which model helped you understand plate tectonics the best, and why?**
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