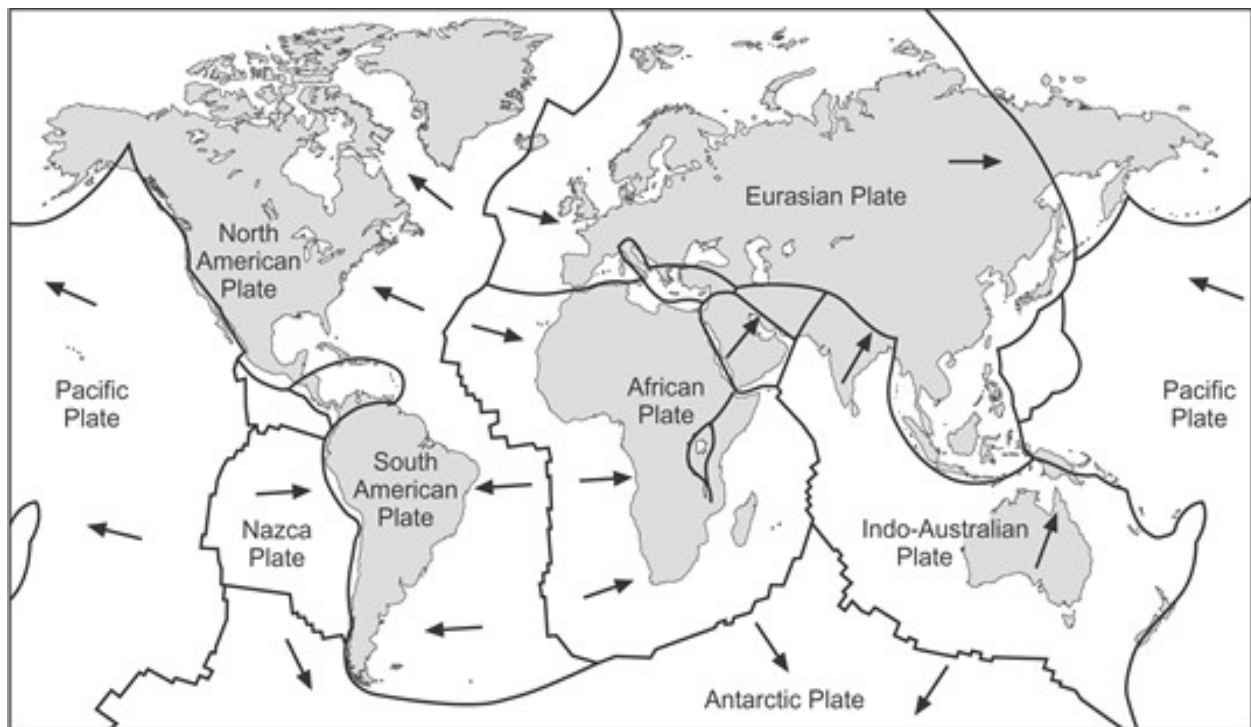


The Earth's crust is broken into large pieces called **plates**.

These plates are floating on **hot molten rock** beneath.

There are 14 main plates.



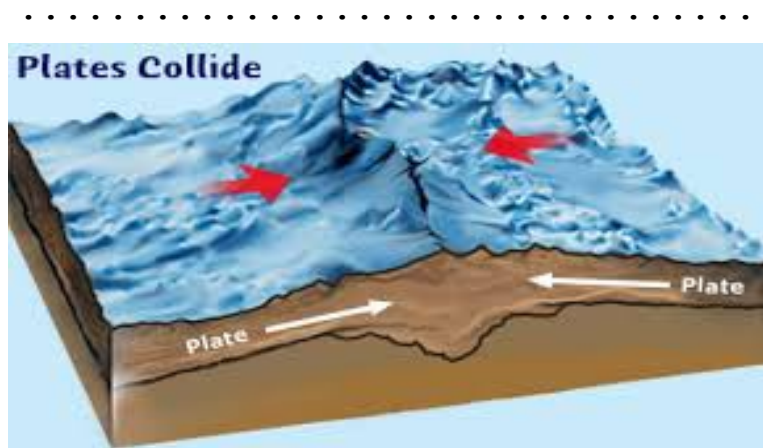
The plates move (drift) as the hot fluid rock on which they **float** moves around.

!! America is moving away from Europe at a rate of 5cm per year!!

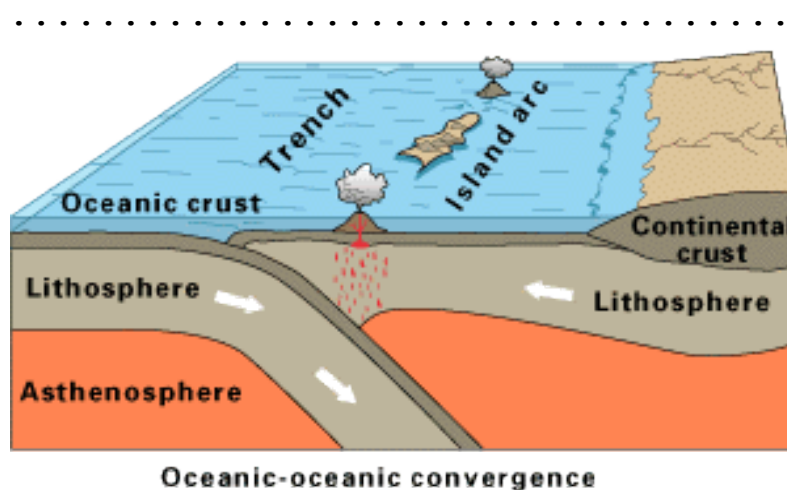
What happens when the plates **touch** one another?

There are three (3) possible answers:

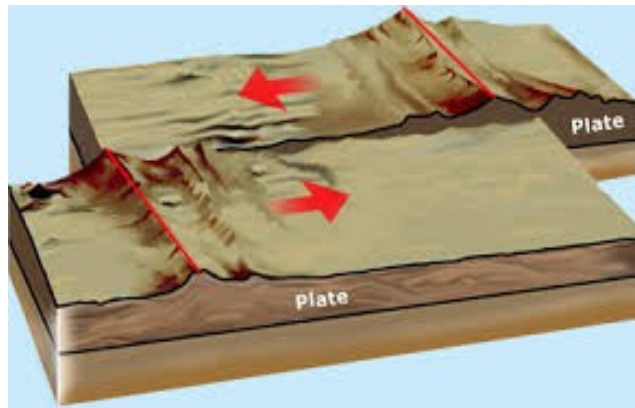
- 1) They push together
- 2) They slide against each other, or
- 3) They pull apart



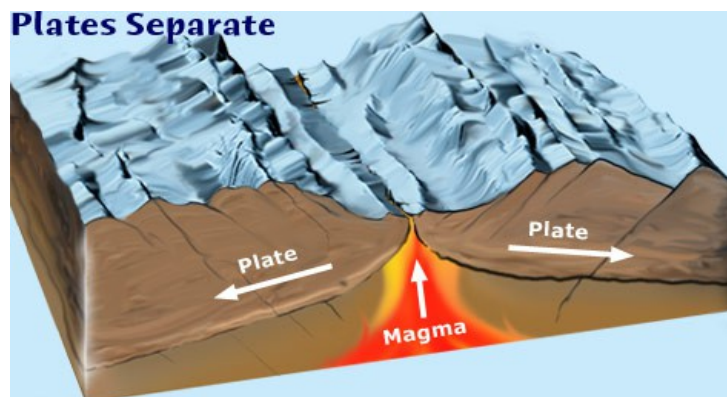
1a) The plates push together and form mountains!



1b) The **soft ocean crust** is forced down under the **hard continental crust**



- 2) Two plates slide against each other. The point where they 'meet' we call it a **fault line**. The fault lines cause earthquakes.



- 3) Where plates move apart great valleys or **rifts** are formed.

!!If a rift fills with water a new sea is formed!!

Quiz

Give a geological explanation for the pictures below:

A)



B)



C)



D)

fault, rift, mountains,

crust, earthquakes, plates

The Earth's is broken into 14
main

When the plates pull together
may be created.

When the plates move apart a is
created.

When the plates slide past each other a
..... develops and this may cause
.....