

Plate Boundaries Lesson with Google Earth

(1) 50 min period

Materials:

Lecture Slides on Plate Boundary Types and geologic features at boundaries

Google Earth Activity details sheet

Google Earth Activity Materials (See Activity details sheet)

Prep:

Some practice with Google Earth is recommended. See Google Earth activity details.

Context: This lesson will familiarize students with the three types of plate boundaries and will give real life examples of plate boundaries. They should learn to recognize what geological formations are found at each boundary type.

Lesson Plan:

1. Start by Lecturing on the plate boundary types, including the geologic features found at each boundary (see annotated slides for notes).
2. After lecture, begin Google Earth plate boundaries activity (see activity details sheet for instructions).
3. During the activity, students keep track of where they have visited on Google Earth with a handout. Optionally collect handout or have them keep it as a study guide.

Wrap-up: If there is time, ask students what other places they want to visit. Google Earth recognizes the names of many volcanoes and other features, so you can fly to many without knowing the latitude/longitude.