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## Plate Tectonics

The theory that explains how large pieces of the lithosphere, called plates, move and change shape

Plate Tectonics

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## Lithosphere

The solid, outer layer of Earth that consists of the crust and the rigid upper part of the mantle

Lithosphere

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## Asthenosphere

The solid, plastic layer of the mantle beneath the lithosphere; made of rock that flows very slowly, allowing overriding tectonic plates to move

Asthenosphere

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## Continental Drift

the hypothesis that states that the continents once formed a single landmass, broke up, and drifted to their present locations

Continental Drift

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## Sea Floor Spreading

The process by which new oceanic lithosphere (sea floor) forms as magma rises to Earth's surface and solidifies at a mid-ocean ridge

Sea Floor Spreading

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## Subduction

The process of one tectonic plate sinking beneath another into the mantle at a convergent plate boundary

Subduction

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## Paleomagnetism

The study of the magnetization of old rocks - especially how they recorded past reversals of the Earth's magnetic field

Paleomagnetism

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