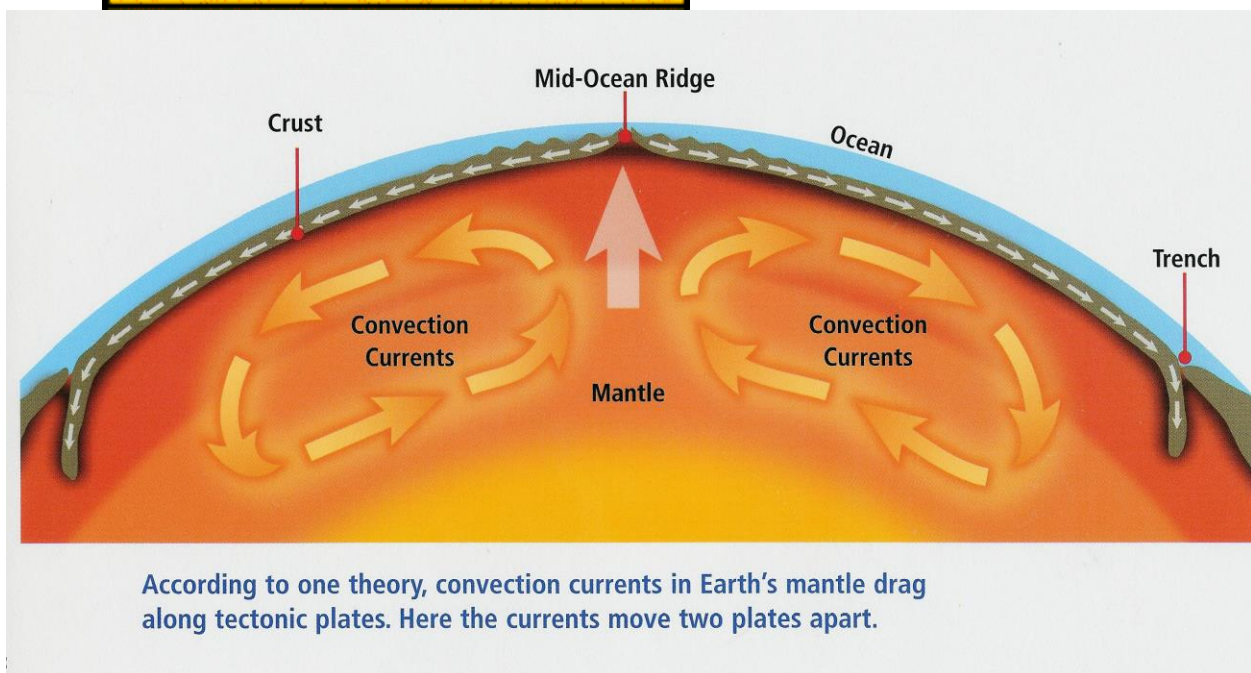
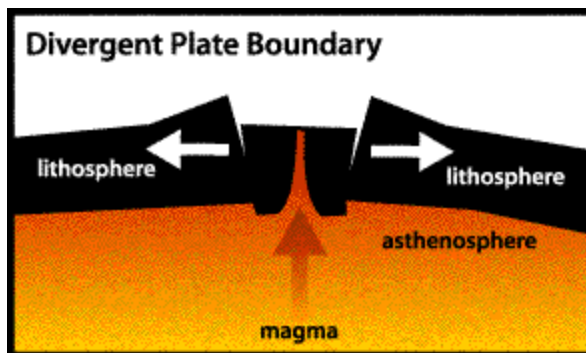


Divergent plate boundaries

Important notes: The rift or fissure is created by pressure in the mantle that breaks through oceanic crust, produces magma (which is then frozen creating basalt), and then repeats creating more crust. An example of this is the Mid-Atlantic rift. This is called a rift valley, a large flat area with steep areas that lead into the valley. Another important part of a divergent plate boundary is the lithosphere, the brittle crust of the Earth and consisting of the upper mantle/crust. The sides of the valley are lifted by something called convection (when hot liquid rises), breaking the surface and creating the valley.



Answer the following questions with help from the notes.

1.What is the lithosphere?

2.What causes the breaking in the surface? What is the rock produced called?

3.What was this called as a theory? Who proved that theory? What helped prove this theory?

4.What is the affect that divergent boundaries have had on the Earth? What is the name of the largest divergent boundary?

5.What are the volcanoes like on a divergent plate boundary?

Answers: 1.Lithosphere is the brittle layer connecting the upper mantle to the crust. 2. Pressure is built in the mantle and pushes out the plate boundary to release pressure. Basalt. 3. Seafloor spreading. Harry Hess. Pangea, fossil types, and rocks. 4. Creates continental drift. Mid-Atlantic Rift. 5. The volcanoes are small, non-violent, and create the basalt responsible for seafloor spreading.