

Name: _____
Date: _____
Period: _____

Plate Tectonic Boundaries

1. Fill in the blanks in the paragraph below.

The earth is a dynamic place. Its crust is broken into numerous _____, upon which continents and oceans ride. When these plates collide, geologists call the boundary a _____ boundary. The most dominant feature found at such boundaries are _____. Where the subcontinent of India is colliding with _____ the Himalayas are still in the process of forming. Closer to home, the Berkshires (Appalachian) Mountains were formed when the continents of Africa and _____ collided during the formation of the super-continent known as _____, which means "all earth". Such collisions often result in mountains being formed on both plates. The mountains which correspond to the Berkshires are the _____ of north Africa and the _____ in the UK.

When plates eventually pull apart, geologists call this a _____ boundary. The mid-Atlantic ridge and the _____ of Africa are good examples of these boundaries. These are both long, narrow, steep valleys called _____. The Connecticut River Valley right here in our own backyard was once such a valley, about _____ years ago when _____ was breaking up into the two large continents known as Laurentia and Gondwanaland. Stresses related to the forces pulling the plates apart caused _____ to form and lava flows such as the traprock hills around Hartford.

Sometimes plates will simply slide past each other. These places are called by geologists _____ boundaries. Southern California has an excellent example of such a boundary at the _____. Comedians always claim that the ultimate fate of Los Angeles is that it will fall off into the _____, but scientists know the fate is different. Southern California is moving _____ and will eventually bring Los Angeles to the city of _____. Sometimes the plates move as little as 1 millimeter, but have been known to jump as much as 30 feet. This caused the devastating earthquake of 1906 in _____.