

LAB: Puzzle This Out

Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

INTRODUCTION:

Some scientists believe that the earth's crust is divided into large plates. These plates have moved in the past, and may still be moving. Where are the boundaries of these plates? The puzzle in this activity will show you. Just follow the directions below.

MATERIALS:

sheet of puzzle pieces, sheet of cardboard, colored pencils, scissors, glue, map of the world

DIRECTIONS:

1. Color inside the puzzle edges red.
2. Color the continents brown.
3. Cut out each puzzle piece carefully. Neatness and closeness count!
4. Assemble the puzzle. Fit the pieces together. Draw a horizontal line on the cardboard (the equator), put Africa in the center, and fill in the other puzzle pieces.
5. Glue the assembled puzzle onto the cardboard. **DON'T USE TOO MUCH GLUE!!**
6. Label each plate in blue. Use the world map in your book if you need help.

****BE SURE TO SPLIT THE AMERICAN PLATE IN TWO** (and label the North American and South American Plates separately). **BE SURE TO SPLIT THE AFRICAN PLATE IN TWO** (and label the African and Arabian Plates separately).

7. Show how each plate moves with a green arrow. Use this chart and the map in your book if you need help.

Plate Name	Direction of Motion	Plate Name	Direction of Motion
North American	west	Nazca	east
South American	west	Eurasian	east-southeast
Pacific	west-northwest	Cocas	northeast
Indo-Australian	northeast	Philippine	west

QUESTIONS:

1. You colored the continents brown. How many continents are there? _____

List the continents: _____

2. You outlined the edge of each puzzle piece in red. Many scientists believe these to be the boundaries of the crustal plates. Note that some of the plates do not have continents on them. Name one plate with no continent on it. _____

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