

Plate Tectonics

Directions:

1. Open "Earths_Tectonic_Plates" KMZ file with Google Earth.
2. In the Search box, type in "India".
3. Zoom out so you can see the borders of the plate surrounding the Indian Subcontinent.
4. You will remember from Week 7 that there are 3 main types of plates on earth:
 - Divergent – going apart from each other
 - Convergent – pushing together
 - Transverse – moving against each other

You should also remember that the movement and type of movement cause land formations such as mountains or trenches and events such as earthquakes or volcanoes.

5. Look at the Convergent plate boundary at the Northeastern part of India.
 - What type of formation is here?
 - What is its name?

Zoom in and explore the area

6. Zoom back out to the full Earth extent, keeping India in the center
7. Inspect the Divergent and Transverse plates in the Indian Ocean to the Southwest of India.
 - Which direction is the Indian plate moving?
 - What continent do you think India was part of millions of years ago?

Supply List:

- Google Earth
- KMZ file on CD-ROM "Earths_Tectonic_Plates"

Additional Resources

- <http://www.palaeos.com/Earth/Geography/palaeogeography.htm>
- <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/dynamic/dynamic.html>
- <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/classroom.php>