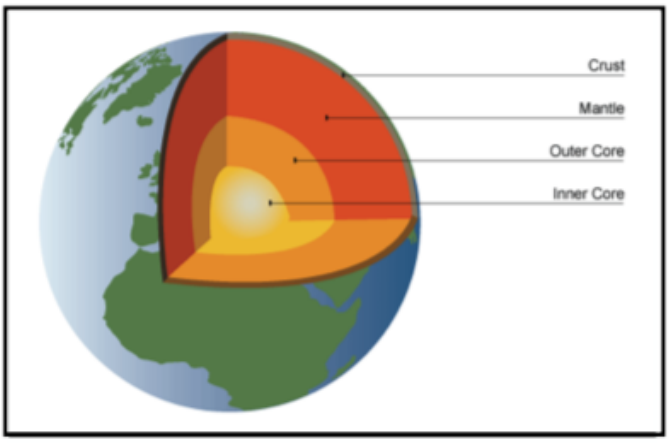
Caroline Haslett Primary School - Geography		
Summer Term	Year 6	Tectonic Plates

New Knowledge

The Earth is made of a few different layers: crust, inner core, mantle and outer core.



Tectonic plates are pieces of the Earth's crust that 'float' on the magma underneath.

The plates move because of convection currents in the mantle.

Tectonic plates are made of two types of crust – oceanic crust and continental crust.

Earthquakes and volcanoes are usually found at plate boundaries.

There are three different plate boundaries:

- Conservative Plate Boundaries – where two tectonic plates slide past each other in opposite directions, which can cause earthquakes.
- Constructive Plate Boundaries – where two tectonic plates move apart, which can cause earthquakes.
- Destructive Plate Boundaries – where two tectonic plates move towards each other, which can cause earthquakes and volcanoes.

Activities

Identify the Earth's plate boundaries.

Explain the Earth's structure and different plate boundaries and the relationship between them and earthquakes and volcanoes.

Vocabulary

Convection Currents - waves of moving heat.

Conservative Plate Boundaries – where two tectonic plates slide past each other in opposite directions.

Continental Crust – parts of the Earth's crust that is mainly under land.

Constructive Plate Boundaries – where two tectonic plates move apart.

Crust – the thin, solid outer layer of the Earth that we live on.

Destructive Plate Boundaries – where two tectonic plates move towards each other.

Inner Core – a super-hot solid ball of iron and nickel at the centre of Earth.

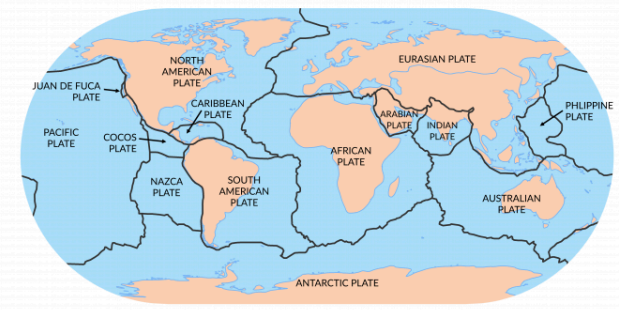
Mantle – The thick, gooey layer of molten rock underneath the Earth's crust.

Oceanic Crust – parts of the Earth's crust that is mainly under the sea.

Outer Core – a hot liquid layer of iron and nickel surrounding the Earth's inner core.

Plate Boundary – where two tectonic plates meet.

Tectonic Plates – pieces of the Earth's crust that 'float' on the magma underneath.



Skills and National Curriculum Objectives

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including volcanoes and earthquakes. Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate areas and describe features studied.

Location Knowledge	Name and locate the world's tectonic plate boundaries.
Place knowledge	-
Human and physical geography	Describe and understand key features of the physical geography of the areas of the world where tectonic plate boundaries are located.
Geographical skills and fieldwork	Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate the world's tectonic plate boundaries and describe features studied.