

Quick Vocabulary

Lesson 1

continental drift hypothesis that continents are in constant motion

fossil naturally preserved remains, imprints, or traces of organisms

mantle middle layer of Earth situated between the crust above and the core below

Pangaea ancient supercontinent, composed of land that forms today's continents

Lesson 2

magnetic reversal event in which the magnetic field reverses direction

mid-ocean ridge mountain range located on the seafloor in the middle of the ocean

normal conforming to a type, standard, or regular pattern

normal polarity today's magnetic field; magnets orient themselves to point north

reversed polarity magnetic field in which magnets orient themselves to point south

seafloor spreading new oceanic crust forms at a mid-ocean ridge as old oceanic crust moves away

Quick Vocabulary

Lesson 3

convection circulation of material caused by differences in temperature and density

convergent plate boundary where two plates collide

divergent plate boundary where two plates separate

lithosphere cold, rigid outermost rock layer of Earth

plastic capable of being molded or changing shape

plate tectonics theory that Earth's surface is made of rock plates that move with respect to each other

ridge push force created by rising mantle of ocean ridges that creates potential for plates to move away from the ridge

slab pull force created by sinking of a plate, or slab, that pulls on the rest of the plate

subduction sinking of a denser plate below a more buoyant plate at a convergent plate boundary

transform plate boundary where two plates slide by each other