



NATURAL SCIENCES (NATS4)

NOTES AND ACTIVITY – US 7509

LESSION 17

UNPACKING SBA

THEME: Earth and Beyond

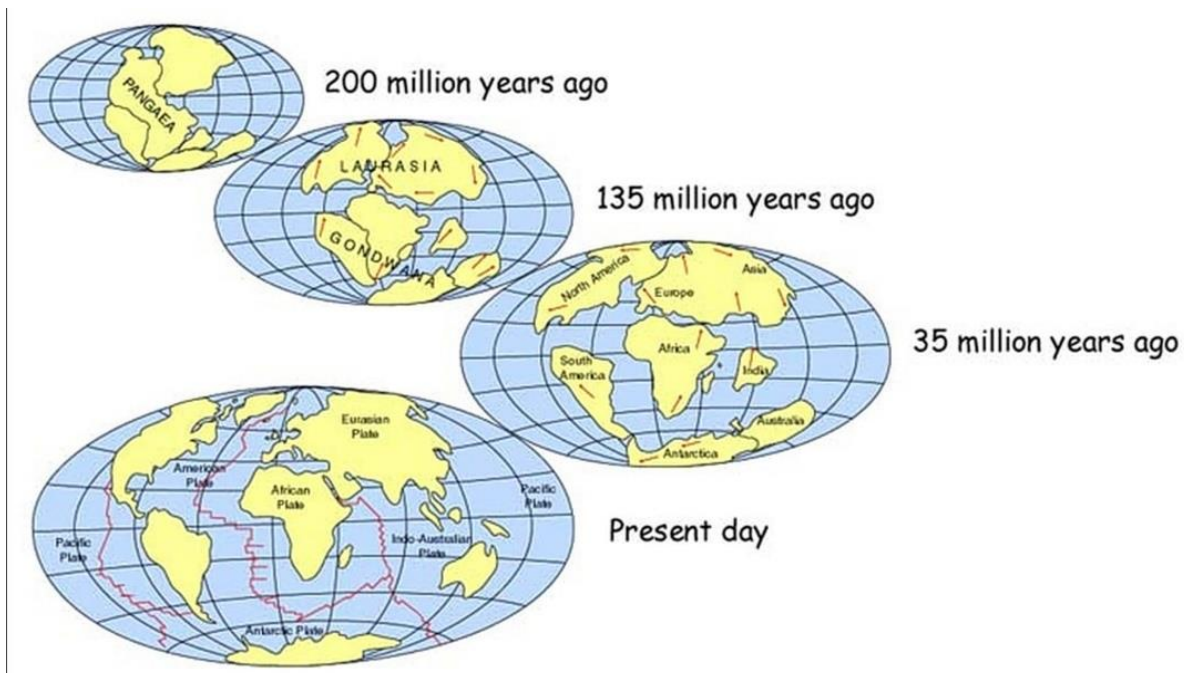
TOPIC: The movement of the continents

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

1. Define what continent means.
2. Discuss why and how the continents formed.
3. Identify and name different continents and their boundaries.

PANGAEA

- It is believed that about 300 million years ago there was only one giant continent called **Pangaea** in the planet Earth.



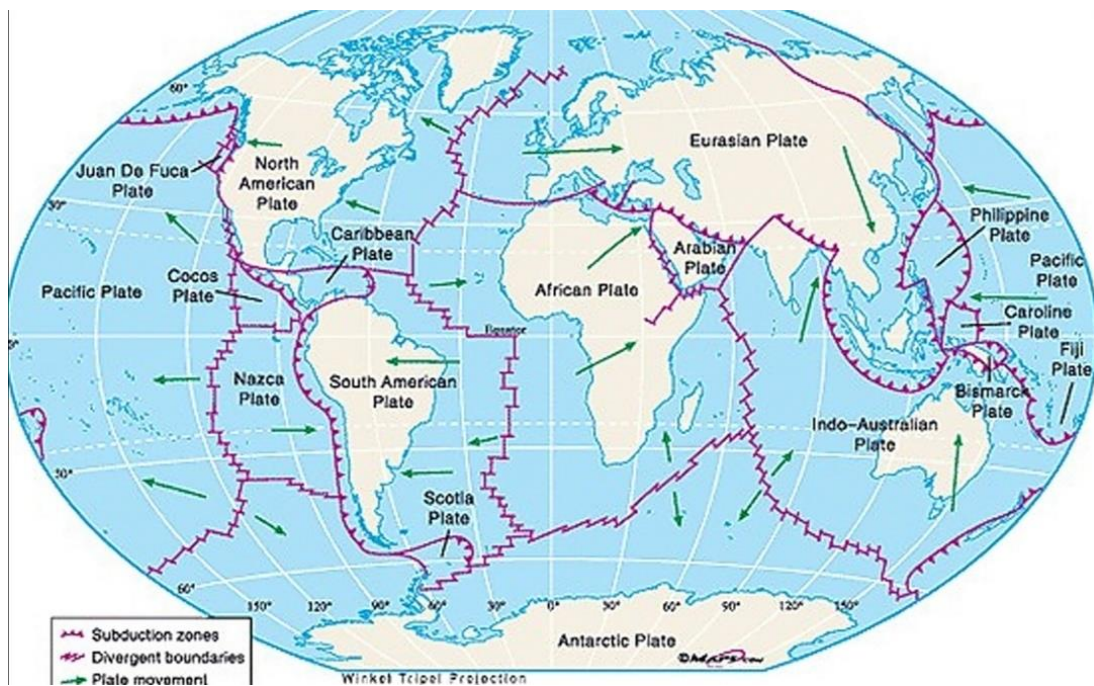
- Pangaea began to break apart forming **continents** which are large land masses surrounded by oceans and seas.
- The continents began to move away from other due to a movement called **continental drift**.

WHAT CAUSES THE CONTINENTAL DRIFT?

The continental drift still occurs today, although we cannot feel the movement because it is extremely slow.

The Earth's crust is divided into larger sections called **tectonic plates** which are huge, solid plates of rock floating on the layer of hot, liquid rocks of the mantle.

- The continents are on **continental plates**
- The ocean beds are on the **oceanic plates**



The above map shows the

- Arrows indicate the directions in which the plates move
- Plates and the boundaries or margins which are the areas where the plates move

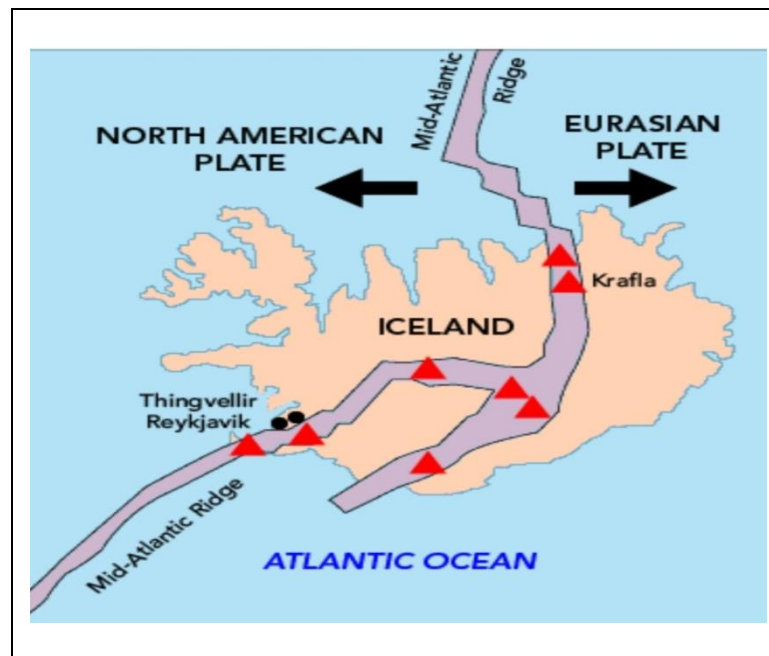
The movement of the plates is **diverging**, **converging** and **sideways**:

- **Diverging plates** – is a movement wherein the plates apart from each other causing a *construction* of tsunami waves.

- **Converging plates** – is a movement wherein plates the pushing against each other causing *destruction* of plates as they further break resulting in earthquakes.
- **Plates moving sideways** – plates can move against each other without any loss or gain of material. This occurs at *conservative* plate margins resulting in earthquakes.

ACTIVITY

1. Study the diagram and answer the questions.



- 1.1 What is the name of the movement of continents? (2)
- 1.2 In which side of equator is Iceland located? Southern or Northern Hemisphere? (1)
- 1.3 Are the plates, North America and Eurasian, converging or diverging? Explain. (3)
- 1.4 Provide the names of the TWO main countries found on the Eurasian plate. (2)
- 1.5 Identify the boundary separating North America and Eurasian plates. (1)