

mid-oceanic ridge	a mountain range under the world's oceans often with a deep valley along its centre
monocline	rocks folded into a roughly S-shape
normal fault	a fault where the rock above the fault line has moved down relative to the rock below
Pangaea	the crescent shaped supercontinent made up of all the present continents fitted together to form one large landmass
plate - crustal	any of the large movable segments into which the Earth's crust is divided according to the theory of plate tectonics

plate tectonics

the theory that the surface of the Earth is divided into a number of constantly moving crustal plates; can be used to explain the present positions of the continents

plate tectonic supercycle

the cyclic joining together and breaking apart of continents as they move across the earth's surface

platform

relatively thin layers of undisturbed sedimentary rocks lying over a shield

pluton

a large body of intrusive igneous rock less than 30km in diameter

primary (P) waves

the first seismic wave that reaches a seismograph from an earthquake; a compression wave

pyroclastic flow

a fast-moving mixture of hot gases and hot volcanic ash from a volcano

resonance

the larger amplitude produced when a small vibration is applied to a body at its natural frequency

reverse fault

a fault where the rocks above the fault line move up compared to the rocks below

Richter scale

a scale for expressing the magnitude of an earthquake

Rodinia

the supercontinent of the late Proterozoic

secondary (S) waves

the second waves to arrive at a seismograph from an earthquake; a transverse wave

seismic

a term describing movements within the Earth

seismograph

a device used to measure the intensity of an earthquake

shear

the effect of applied forces that causes or tends to cause two parts of a body to slide relatively to each other in a direction parallel to their plane of contact

shield

cratons exposed at the surface

subduction

the process by which one crustal plate descends beneath another, such as along a deep oceanic trench

syncline

a trough of stratified rock in which the beds dip toward each other from either side in a roughly U-shape

tension

forces pulling in opposite directions

thermal uplift

the vertical movement of landmasses due to large masses of molten rock rising under continents from the mantle

transform boundary

when two crustal plates move past each other with no new crust formed or old crust destroyed

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tsunami

a large ocean wave  
produced by an  
earthquake or volcanic  
eruption

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viscosity

a measure of the resistance to flow  
that a gas or liquid offers, as when  
it flows through a tube, or when  
another body attempts to travel  
through the gas or liquid

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volcano

a hole or crack in the  
Earth from which molten  
rock (magma) and gas  
are produced

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