# My NASA Data - Mini Lesson/Activity What are Tectonic Plates?

#### **Grade Band**

• 6-8

#### **Time**

• 30 minutes

#### **Overview**

Students will review the NASA Space Place video, "Tectonic Forces", and answer questions about tectonic plates.

#### **Student Directions**

Video: Tectonic Forces

Tectonic Forces | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGlvw-QZtNU | Source: NASA Space Place

- 1. Watch the NASA Space Place video <u>Tectonic Forces</u> and answer the questions. Check with your instructor on how to submit answers.
  - 1. What is the name of the supercontinent that began to break up about 180 million years ago?
  - 2. What happened when the Americas and Africa drifted apart?
  - 3. What causes Earth's tectonic plates to move?
  - 4. What happens when tectonic plates move apart at the bottom of the ocean?
  - 5. Where does the creation of new oceanic crust occur?
  - 6. Where is old ocean floor destroyed or recycled?
  - 7. What happens when the seafloor is created and destroyed?

#### Source:

1. Tectonic Forces. (n.d.). NASA Space Place. Retrieved May 4, 2022, from <a href="https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/tectonics-snap/en/">https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/tectonics-snap/en/</a>

#### **Teacher Note**

Teachers, these mini lessons/student activities are perfect "warm up" tasks that can be used as a hook, bell ringer, exit slip, etc. They take less than a class period to complete. Learn more on the "My NASA Data What are Mini Lessons?" page.

Teachers who are interested in receiving the answer key, please complete the <u>Teacher Key Request</u> and <u>Verification Form</u>. We verify that requestors are teachers prior to sending access to the answer keys as we've had many students try to pass as teachers to gain access.

## **NGSS Three Dimensional Learning**

### **NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas**

ESS2A: Earth Materials and Systems

#### **Crosscutting Concepts**

Cause and Effect

#### **Science and Engineering Practices**

Obtaining, Evaluating and Communicating Information

#### **Document Resources**

What are Tectonic Plates Student Questions

