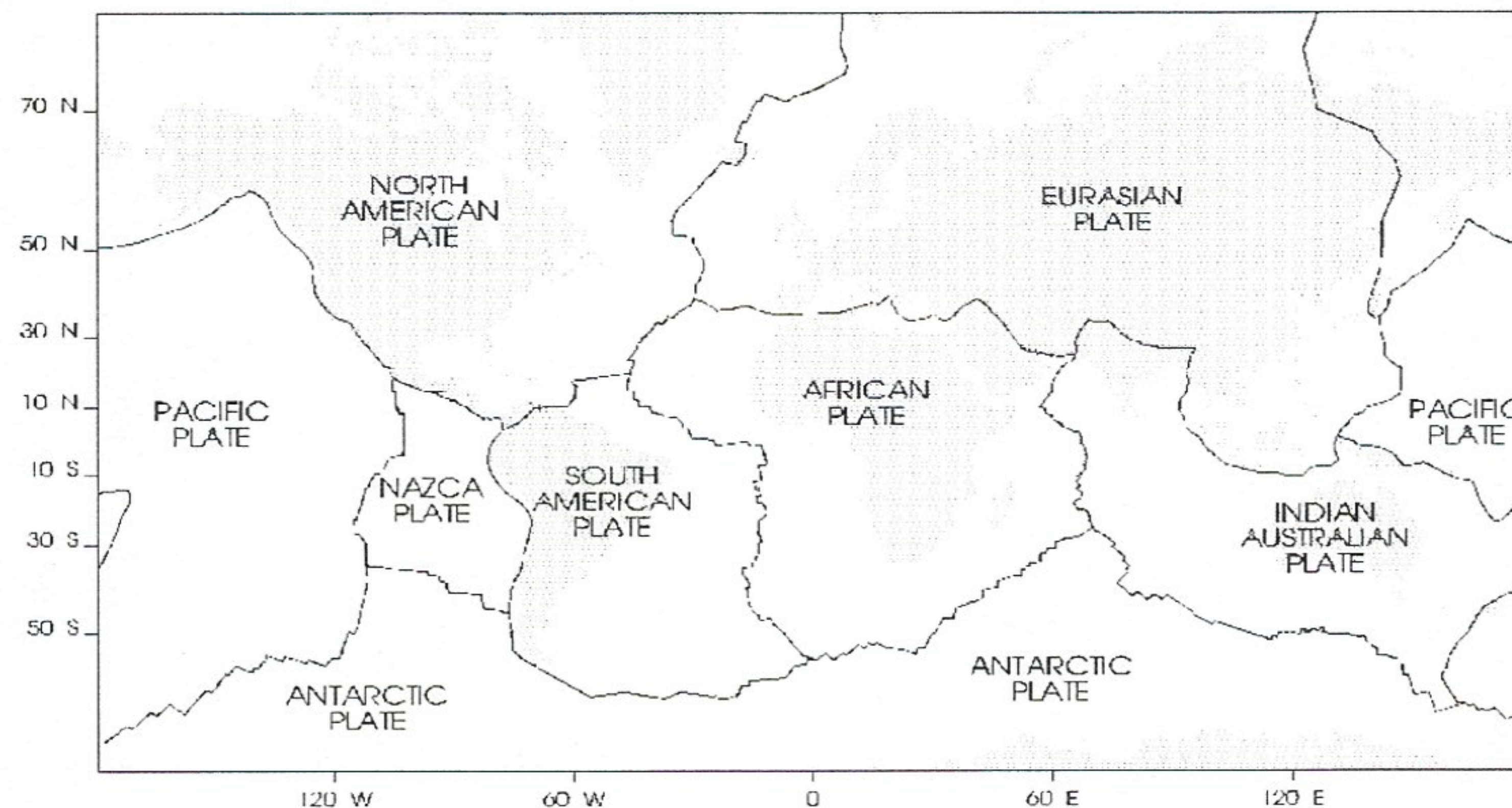


Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## *A Gigantic Jigsaw Puzzle*

*The Plate Tectonic Theory*, developed in the 1960's, states that the Earth's crust is not one solid skin, but it is broken up into a series of giant moving plates. The giant plates are like closely packed, gigantic jigsaw pieces floating on the Earth's mantle. Adjoining plates move in three ways: they collide, pull apart or slide past each other. Earthquakes can occur with all three types of plate movement. When two plates scrape together and one gets caught on the other, pressure builds up until it is finally released and felt as an earthquake. When two plates move away from each other, they leave a gap between them, allowing magma from the Earth's mantle to ooze out, forming volcanoes. Plates can also collide and push up against each other, folding the land upward into mountains.



1. What does the Plate Tectonic Theory tell us about the Earth's crust?

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2. Study the diagram. Name three continents that you think were formed from the tectonic plates shown.

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3. How are earthquakes, volcanoes and mountains formed?

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