

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Skill: Identification

## Let's Talk Tectonics

**Plate tectonics** is a theory that says the earth's crust is divided into about 12 slowly moving plates. If two plates hit against each other, an earthquake occurs.

Every continent is thought to be imbedded within these plates. If the plates are moving, then the continents are, too! The idea that the continents are changing their positions is called the **continental drift theory**. Some plates appear to be drifting almost one inch each year, carrying the continents with them.



Match each description below with the map it describes. Inside the box by each description, write the letter of the corresponding map.

- 1. **200 million yrs. ago**—Continents form one "supercontinent" scientists call "Pangaea."
- 3. **135 million yrs. ago**—Continents' shapes similar to today's. South America & Africa begin separating.

- 2. **180 million yrs. ago**—Pangaea is broken into two huge continents: Laurasia & Gondwanaland
- 4. **65 million yrs. ago**—Continents almost like today. North and South America are still apart.

A



B



C



D

