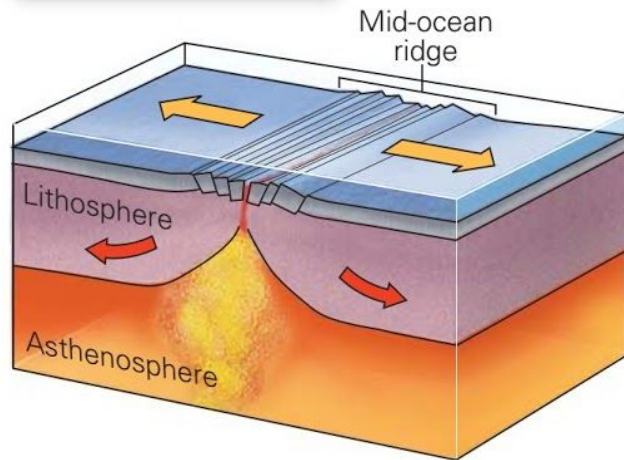
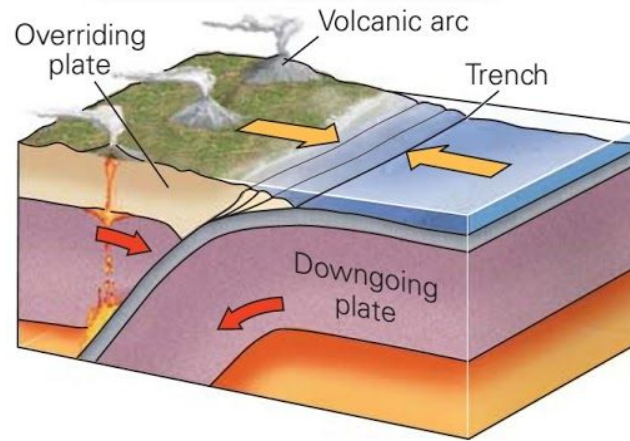


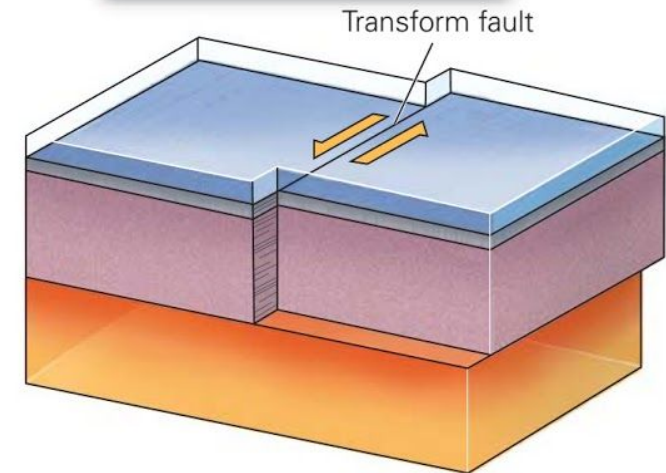
Lithosphere thickens away from the axis.



The process of consuming a plate is called subduction.



No new plate forms, and no old plate is consumed.



(a) At a divergent boundary, two plates move away from the axis of a mid-ocean ridge. New oceanic lithosphere forms.

(b) At a convergent boundary, two plates move toward each other; the downgoing plate sinks beneath the overriding plate.

(c) At a transform boundary, two plates slide past each other on a vertical fault surface.

The Basic Principles of Plate Tectonics

With the background provided above, we can restate plate tectonics theory concisely as follows. The Earth's lithosphere is divided into plates that move relative to each other. As a plate moves, its internal area remains mostly, but not perfectly, rigid and intact. But rock along plate boundaries undergoes intense deformation (cracking, sliding, bending, stretching, and squashing) as the plate grinds or scrapes against its neighbours or pulls away from its neighbours. As plates move, so do the continents that form part of the plates. Because of plate tectonics, the map of Earth's surface constantly changes.

For more information, or to visit the website:

<http://geologylearn.blogspot.com/2016/02/what-do-we-mean-by-plate-tectonics.html>