

TECTONIC PLATES

This fun and yummy demonstration is a great way to learn about tectonic plates!

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP 1: Spread frosting onto a paper plate. This substance represents the earth's mantle.

STEP 2: Separate several sandwich cookies and remove their filling.

STEP 3: Now add each cookie half into the frosting. They represent the tectonic plates.

STEP 4: Using your hands or a utensil, move the cookies around by pushing them in the frosting. You can pull them farther apart from each other, or push them closer together. You can smash them into smaller pieces, or even push them on top of each other.

STEP 5: Record your thoughts and observations.

SUPPLIES

Paper plate
Frosting
Sandwich cookies
Utensils

TECTONIC PLATES

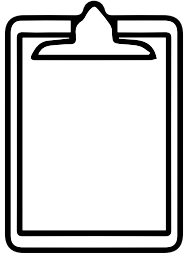
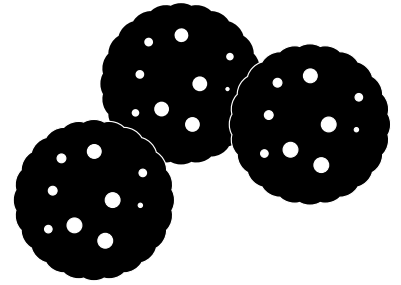
Tectonic plates are large pieces of the Earth's crust that move around on the planet's surface, sometimes causing earthquakes, volcanoes, and other natural disasters. They are made up of solid rock and are located below the Earth's surface.

When you push the cookies into each other and one moves on top of the other, that's the way mountains are formed. And when you smash the cookie into pieces, that is the way earthquakes happen. When the cookies move away from each other, that is called continental drift.



Tectonic Plates Observations

Use this worksheet to process and evaluate your work.



RECORD

Were the cookies easy to move in the frosting?

What happened when the cookies collided with each other?

How do you think an earthquake happens?

What did you learn about tectonic plates?