



Activity: Beach Ball Earth

Purpose: To introduce students to the diversity of places with tectonic significance.

Duration: 30 to 45 minutes

Materials required:

- Tectonic beach ball
- 15 stick-on arrows
- Tectonic decal reference sheets
- World atlas or dictionary with geographic entries
- *Our Dynamic Earth* (from map tube), displayed in classroom

Directions:

Divide the class into small working groups. Give each group one or two of the tectonic travel decal reference sheets. For each decal, ask group members to provide:

1. Geographic location of each decal
2. An interesting fact about this tectonic locality
3. The role of plate tectonics in this locality

Using a stick-on arrow, have members of each group mark the beach ball with the location of the decal. Have group members share something that interested them about their decal localities with the rest of the class.

Make sure the entire class has a chance to view the completed beach ball with all the arrows in place.

In small groups or as a class discussion, ask the following questions:

- What do the white lines on the beach ball globe represent?
- Are most of the tectonic decals from places near white lines on the beach ball?
- What geologic events occur near the white lines?
- Can tectonic events occur away from the white lines?
- How has plate tectonics impacted the decal localities you examined?