We are riding on one of fourteen major tectonic plates comprising earth’s surface. Moving on currents created as mantle circulates deep within the earth, these plates are changed by the dynamic forces that move them. Though you may not feel it today, tectonics is happening beneath you as the North American and Pacific plates grind past each other. Elsewhere along global tectonic boundaries, plate material is created and destroyed.

Plates fit together like a complicated puzzle along tectonic boundaries that shape our world.

- **Convergent boundaries** create regions of mountains and volcanoes as one plate is subducted beneath another.
- **Divergent boundaries** where plates move apart, new material is added to the earth’s crust.
- **Transform boundaries** such as the San Andreas fault system, plates move slowly past each other.