

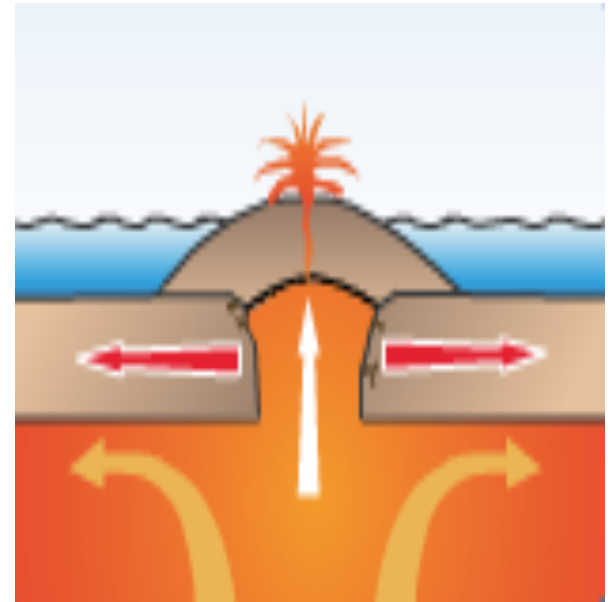
# Constructive plate margins

At these margins the plates are moving apart, this lets the mantle reach the surface and make, or **construct**, new crust. This is happening in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean at the **mid-Atlantic ridge**.

The types of natural disasters you may find at these plate margins are earthquakes. These are caused by friction of the plates as they move over the mantle.

You also get a lot of eruptions at these margins from volcanoes, like the Azores and from cracks in the ground (or the sea bed) called **fissures**, like in Iceland.

The crust on either side of the margin is often faulted. This means it has big cracks in it. They are caused by the massive pressures that the plates cause.

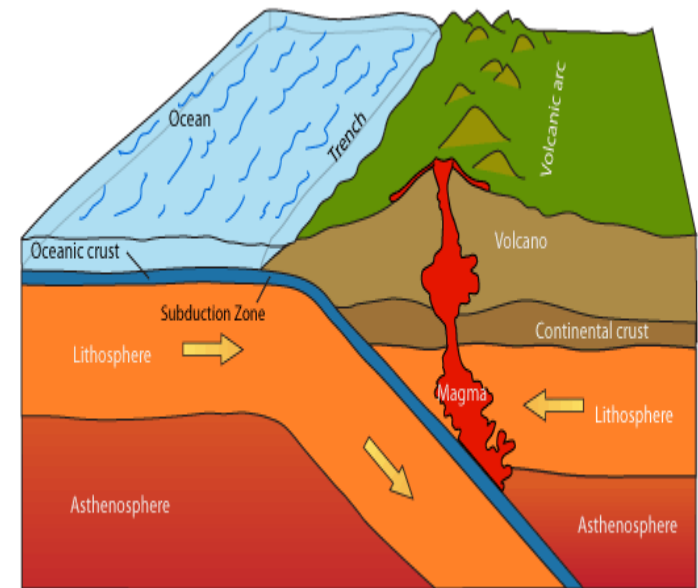


# Destructive plate margins

At these margins the plates are moving together, these two plates are an oceanic and continental plate. The oceanic crust is **denser** than the continental one, so it **subducts**. (sinks) The friction between these two plates causes **earthquakes**.

The land on the edge of the continental crust gets squashed up to make **fold mountains**, like the Andes.

The oceanic crust melts as it goes into the mantle. It takes some sea water with it, which makes it less dense than the mantle and results in it rising. Over time, it breaks through the surface of the crust as a **volcano**. The trapped sea water turns into steam, which builds pressure and when released becomes very explosive.



# Conservative plate margins

At this margin the plates are just moving past one another. No earthquakes occur here but the friction where the plates pass each other results in earthquakes.

One famous example of this is the San Andreas fault in California, USA. This is caused by the two plates called the North American Plate and the Pacific Plate

