Plate Tectonic Theory

Analysis of the ocean floor revealed “deep-sea trenches”. This lead to the development of the Plate Tectonic Theory:

* The Earth surface is made of many plates that move around
* The plates are the lithosphere (rock layer) and they move around on a more fluid layer named the asthenosphere
* Plate material is created when material from the mantle rises to the surface at spreading mis-ocean ridges
* Plate material is destroyed when 2 plates collide and one get subducted into the Earth at a subduction zone or deep sea trench

**Diagram:**

Notes:

* Light tectonic plates make continents
* Dense Tectonic plates make the ocean floor
* Plate boundaries have the following features:
  + Trenches
  + Volcanoes
  + Mountains
  + Ridges
  + Earthquakes
  + Faults