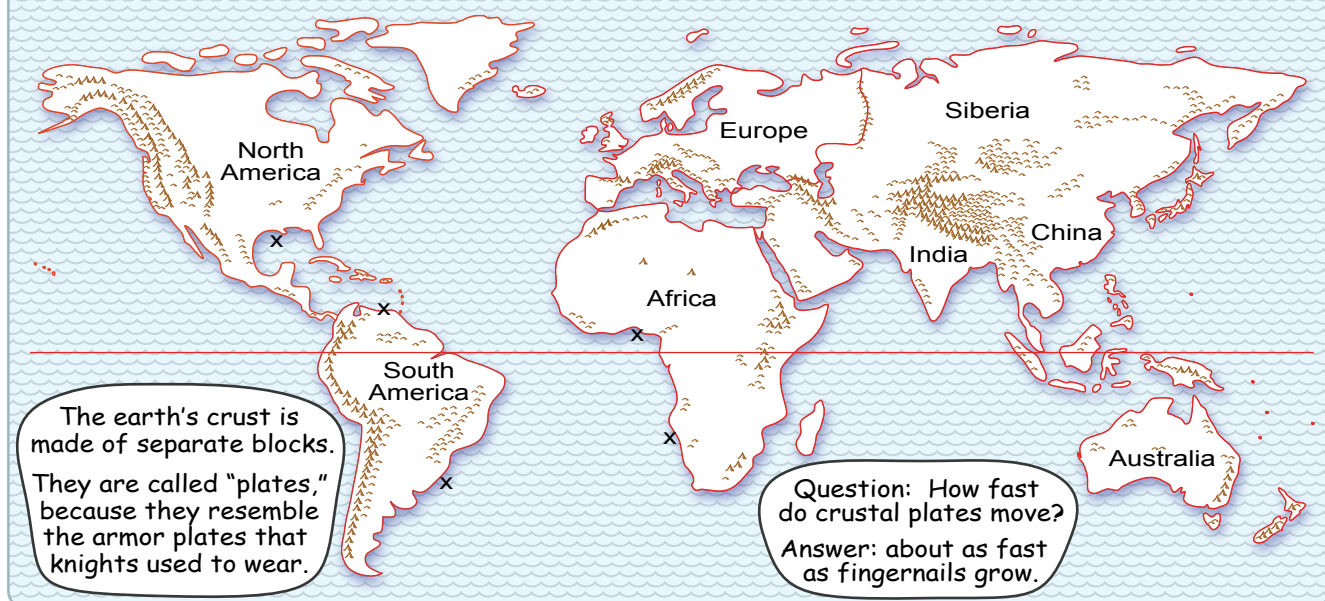


Basic History of the Continents



The crustal plates of the earth are always moving, carrying the continents with them. Occasionally, continents collide with each other. When continents collide, they make complicated mountains. That is where we find gold, copper, and other metals.

Rocks that form in the ocean near these mountains can contain oil or gas, but only if they were in the right place at the right time in geologic history.

Some plates collided to form mountains in the core areas named on the map above (as well as some smaller areas). All of these really old mountains have worn down to low hills. They are way too old to have oil or gas, but they often contain metals.

1. Europe collided with Siberia and made the Ural Mountains. This long line of old, worn-down mountains divides Europe from Asia. Write **Ural** on them on the map.
2. Africa collided with America and made the Appalachian Mountains, a long line of old mountains in eastern North America. Write **Appalachian** on them.
3. Notice how the coastlines of Africa and South America seem to "fit together" ? That is because they used to be together, and then they split apart. Some oil formed in the ocean about the time of the split. Large deposits occur in five places marked by x's on the map: two on the east side of South America, two on the west coast of Africa, and one in the Gulf of Mexico. Write **oil** there.
5. Both North and South America are now crashing into the Pacific Ocean plate. The collision is making lines of mountains near the west coasts. Write **Andes** on the line in South America and **Rockies** on the line in North America. Both of these mountain ranges have a lot of gold, silver, and other metal ores.
6. India used to be connected to Africa. Then it split away and now is crashing into Asia. The collision is making the highest mountains on earth. Write **Himalaya** on these mountains. Do you expect to find oil or metals there?