

	Subduction (oceanic plates)	Hot Spot	Divergent on Continent	Divergent in Ocean
Volcanoes	Volcanoes form on the continental plate in a line parallel to plate boundary.	Volcanoes form immediately above hot spot.	Volcanoes form as magma erupts through continent.	Volcanoes sometimes form as islands formed.
Earthquakes	Earthquakes under the surface following subducting plate.	Not common	Not common	Earthquakes directly tracing plate boundary.
Trenches	Trench forms as one plate subducts beneath another, runs parallel to plate boundary.	No trenches	No trenches	No trenches
Direction of movement	Plates moving towards each other.	One plate moving over fixed hot spot.	Plates moving away from each other.	Plates moving away from each other.
Type of plates (oceanic or continental)	Two oceanic plates.	Either one continental plate or one oceanic plate.	One continental plate.	Two oceanic plates.
Mountains	No mountains.	Mountains (active volcano immediately above hot spot).	No mountains	Mountains ridge at spreading center
Islands	Islands form on one plate as other plate subducts	Islands form if hotspot is beneath oceanic plate.	No islands	Islands can form if magma rises to surface of ocean and solidifies.
Thin or thick plates	Two thin oceanic plates.	One thin oceanic plate or one thick continental plate.	One think continental plate.	Two thin oceanic plates.
Density of rocks	Two higher density oceanic plates.	Oceanic plate is higher density. Continental plate is lower density.	One lower density continental plate.	Two higher density oceanic plates.
New ocean floor	No new ocean floor formed.	No new ocean floor formed.	New ocean floor created as continents split apart.	New ocean floor created at spreading center.
Other				