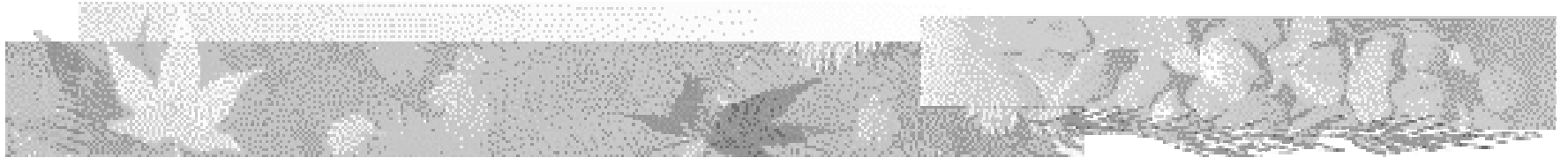


# Third Rock From the Sun Notes

## Plate Tectonics









# Description

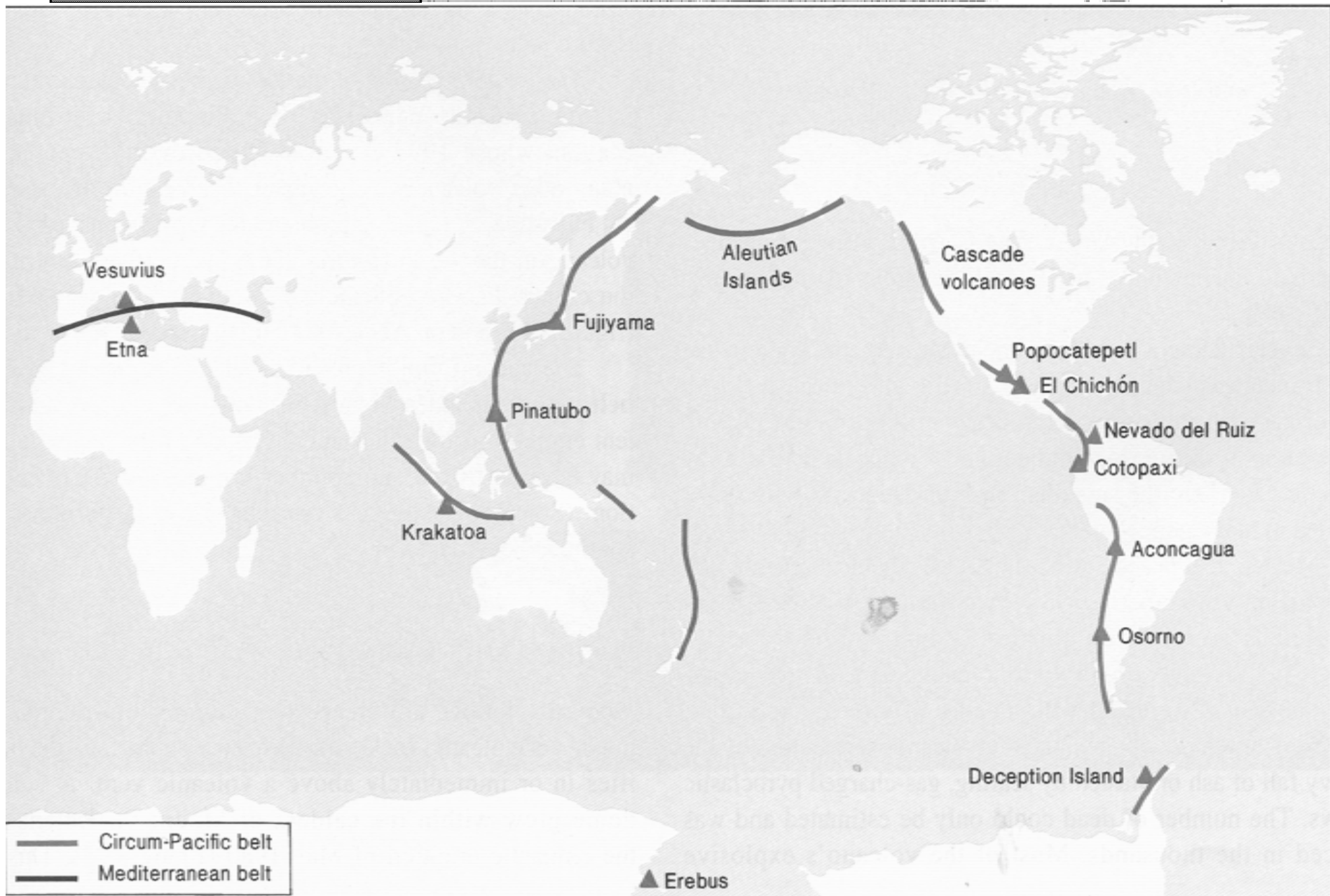
- Plate tectonics is the theory explaining the movement of the plates and the processes that occur at their boundaries.



# Pacific Plate

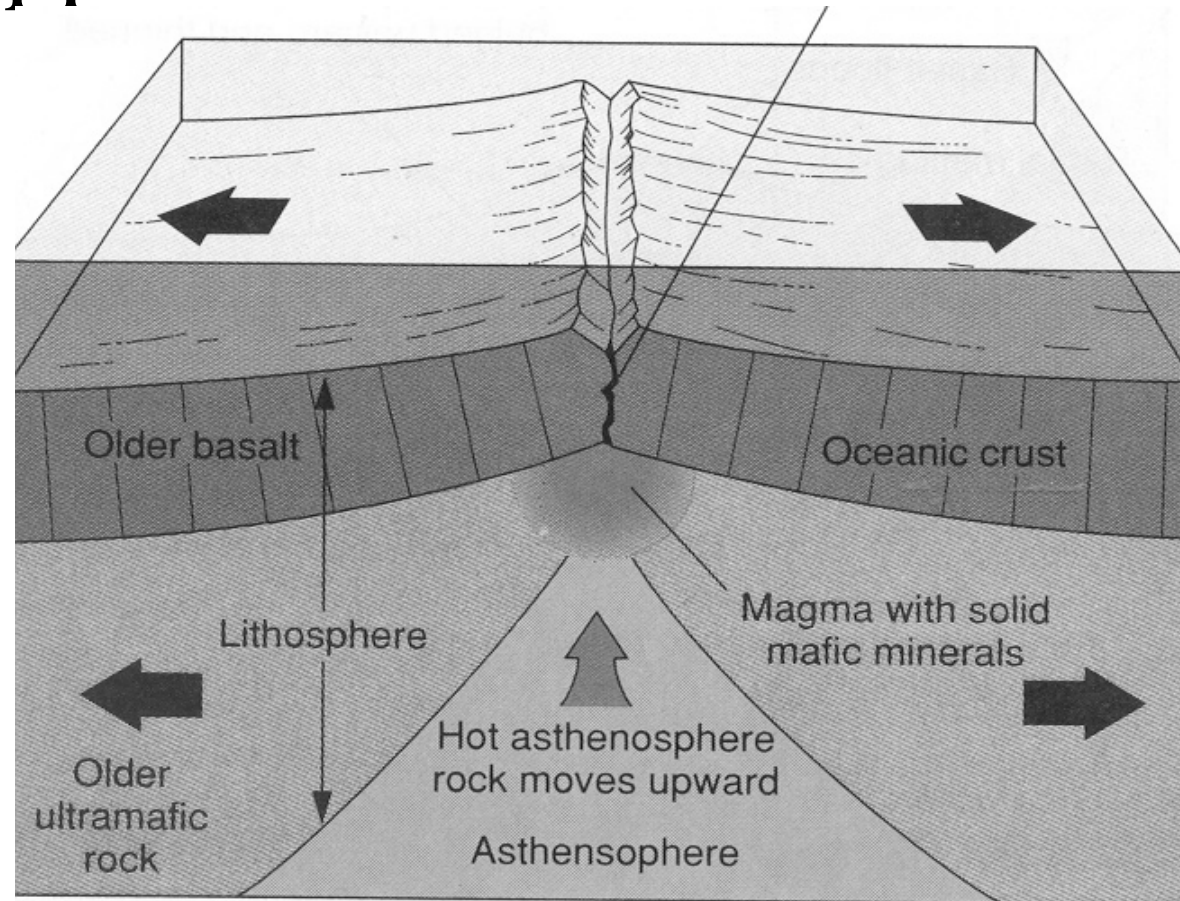
- The Pacific plate is off the coast of California. Lots of volcanoes and earthquakes occur here.
- “California will fall into the ocean” idea.
- It is the largest plate and the location of the ring of fire.






# Boundaries

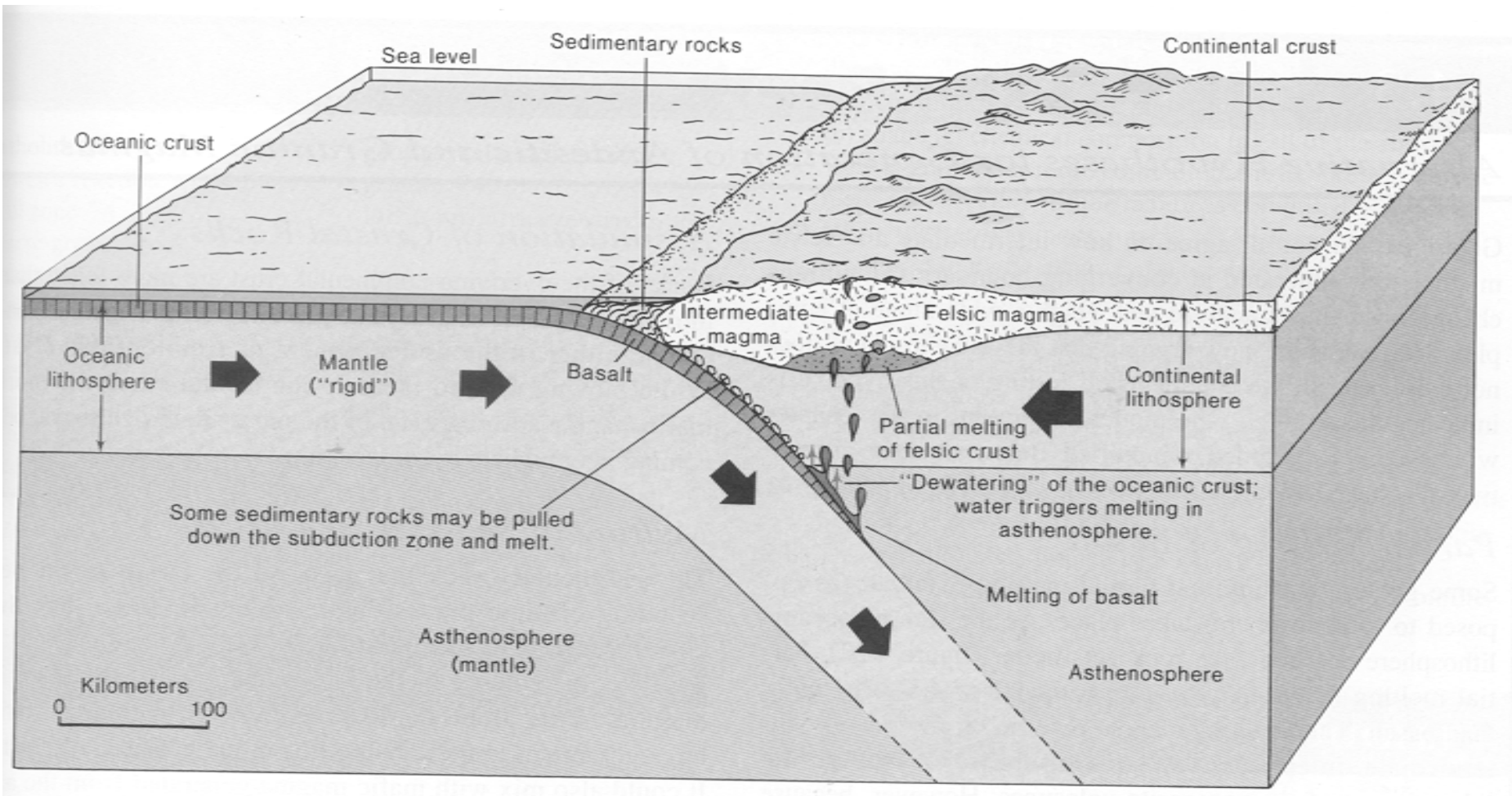
- Divergent – the plates move apart in opposite directions.





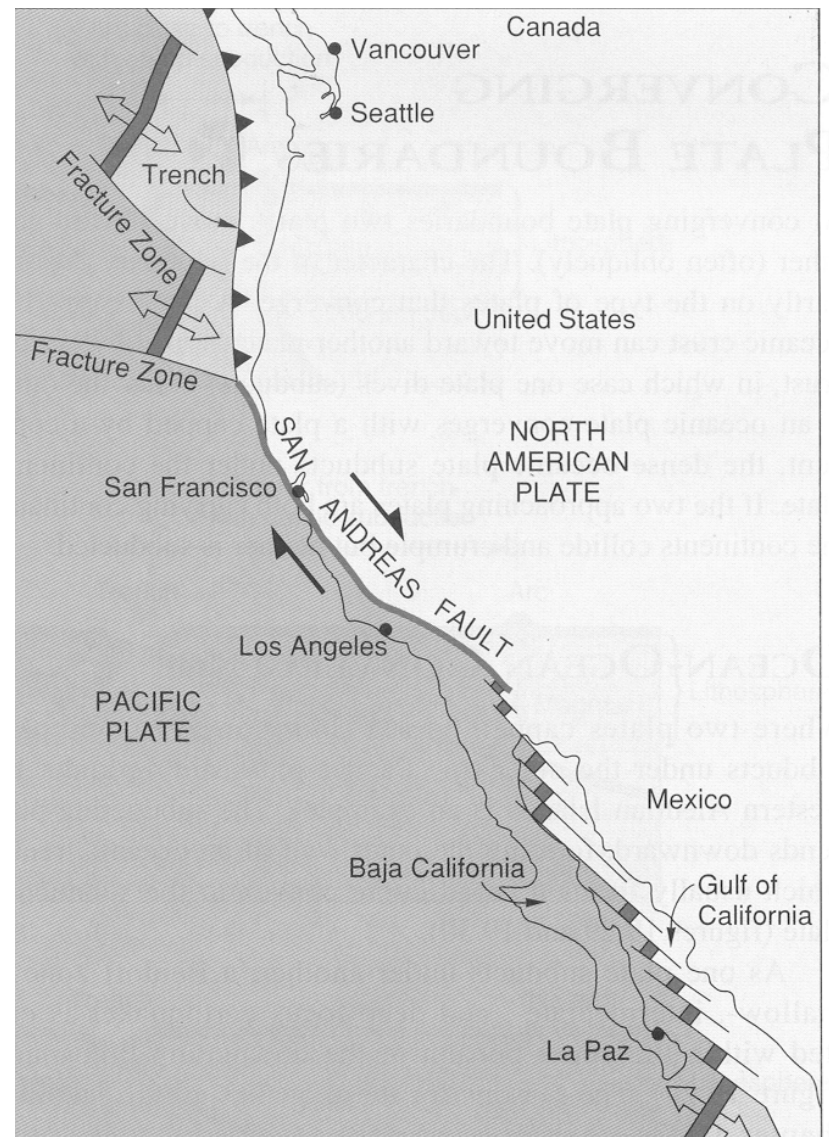
■ Convergent – the plates push together by internal forces. At most convergent plate boundaries, the oceanic lithosphere is carried downward under the island or continent. Earthquakes are common here. It also forms an ocean ridge or a mountain range.





# Boundaries (Continued)

- Transform – plates slide next or past each other in opposite directions along a fracture.
- California will not fall into the ocean!





# Importance

- Plate movement adds new land at boundaries, produces mountains, trenches, earthquakes and volcanoes.