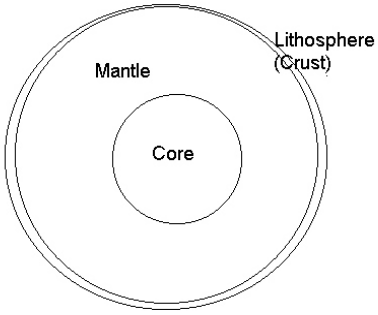
Building the Land

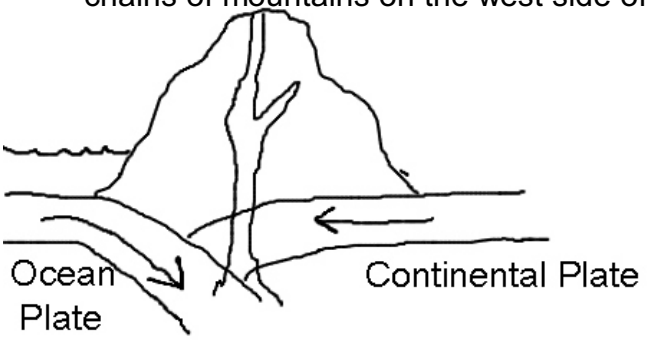
(Perspectives page 13-15)



1. List the parts of the Earth's interior from the centre to the crust.

2. In your own words explain how the continental plates move on the Earth's surface.
Continental plates move in relation to the convection currents that are formed due to the extreme heat in the Earth's interior. The hot magma rises and separates at the surface moving the continental plates.

3. Use figure 1.4d and figure 1.4e to draw a diagram and to explain why there are chains of mountains on the west side of Canada.



The North America plate collides with the heavier Pacific plate (which is forced beneath the lighter continental plate. The Rocky mountains are created as the continental plate is folded/crumpled.

4. Eastern Canada has less tectonic activity compared to Western Canada.
The east coast of Canada is located in the middle of the American plate (there are not collisions or separations between plates)

5. Geologic age of the Earth. oldest to the youngest.

Era	Length of time	Geologic events	Life form changes
Precambrian	4600-570	Earth is formed Solid crust forms Volcanic eruptions worldwide	Earliest fossils appear 2000 mya
Paleozoic	570-245	Appalachian mountains are formed	First land plants, insects, fish, reptiles
Mesozoic	245-66	Innuition mountains form Pangaea begins to separate Seas cover central and western Canada—>Interior plains form.	Birds, mammals and Dinosaurs appear Dinosaurs go extinct at the end of era
Cenozoic	66-	North American plate collides with Pacific plate—>Rocky mt	Mammals thrive Humans appear