Plate Tectonics: Exploration of Deep Time

Bright Horizons Cruise #6

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Pilbera Region, NW Australia, 2,500 to 3,00 MY



Niaca Mine, Chihuahua, Mexico

Shallow-Focus Earthquakes(0-70 km)



Deep-Focus Earthquakes (greater than 70 km)



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A Model of Plate Tectonics



...wheels within wheels within wheels



And Another



And Another

Isaacs, Oliver and Sykes, 1967 (IOS)

What About Hot Spots?

Diffuse Plate Boundaries / "Conventional" Plates









USGS Rapid Instrumental Intensity Map for event: 110302 Sun Nov 3, 2002 10:12:41 PM GST M 7.9 N63.52 W147.53 Depth: 5.0km ID:110302



Subduction Zone, Northern Honshu Japan





Figure 5.3.6. Double seismic zone beneath Tohoku [after Hasegawa et al., 1978a] is compared with the thermal model. Contours are drawn for every 200 C. The





Himalaya Crust and Mantle Section





Supplementary Information for discussion of the upper crustal multiple.) c, South–north azimuthal difference common conversion point stack: the

3 Types of Volcanoes

- Basaltic, shields, ridges, all volcanic regions
- Intermediate, Andesite StratVolcanoes, Island arcs (Subduction)
- Silicic, Calderas, Continental melting

Mona Loa, Hawaii

Generalized Geologic Time Frames

- Stage 1: Pregeologic 4.5 to 4.0 BY
- Stage 2: Archean 4.0 to 2.5 BY

» Early Plate Tectonics, life

• Stage 3: Proterozoic 2.5 to 0.6 BY

» Plate Tectonics, life; Polar Wandering

• Stage 4: Early Phanerozoic 0.6 to .15 BY

» Cambrian, hard shelled fossils

• Stage 5: Late Phanerozoic .15 to 0 BY

» Ocean Magnetic Anomalies

Newberry, Volcano, Bend Oregon



Mt St Helens (pre 1980) and Mt Rainier, Washington

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Note Difference in Pattern in Oceans and on Land





















Geologists Can Predict the Future too!













US Gravity Map-Midcontinent "Rift"

US Magnetic Map





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Pilbera Pillow Basalts ~ 3,500 MY



Pilbera Block, NW Australia~ 3,000 MY old Stromatolites Life Saved the Earth?



