

**continental  
drift**

the theory stating  
that continents are  
continually moving

**core**

the innermost  
layer of Earth

**crust**

the outermost solid  
layer of Earth

**fault**

a break in the Earth's crust at  
the boundaries where plates  
slide past each other

**lithosphere**

the Earth's crust and  
the solid part of the  
mantle

**mantle**

a thick layer of Earth just  
between the crust and the  
core that contains most of  
Earth's mass

plate  
boundary

an area where  
plates meet

plate  
tectonics

the theory that the Earth's  
lithosphere is broken into  
about 20 moving plates

