

active volcano

a volcano that is currently erupting or likely to erupt

anticline

rock strata in which the layers curve downwards to form a crest or ridge

basin

an area in which the rock strata dip downward from all sides toward the centre; deep area of the sea surrounded by shallower regions

compression

the effect of forces acting in opposite direction, causing rocks to shorten by bending or fracturing

conservation boundaries

transform boundaries between crustal plates where no new crust forms and no old crust is destroyed

convergent
boundaries

when two crustal
plates move towards
each other and collide

crater

a large, bowl-shaped
depression with steep sides;
may be formed during
meteorite impact, or at the
summit of a volcano

craton

rocks that underwent intense
deformation in Precambrian
times and that are composed of
granite and various
metamorphic rocks

divergent boundary

where two plates
diverge or separate
from each other

epicentre

a point on the surface of the
Earth which is directly above the
focus of an earthquake and
where the earthquake waves
reached first

extinct	no longer in existence or the disappearance of a fossil from the geological record
fault	a crack in the crust of the Earth where one side of the fracture moves with respect to the other side; the site of earthquakes
felsic rocks	a light coloured igneous rock, with relatively large amounts of feldspar and quartz
fold	to bend a layer of rock e.g. anticline, syncline and monocline
fold belt	an elongated region that has undergone folding or other deformation (e.g. Lachlan fold belt); also known as mobile belt

global positioning system (GPS)

a satellite based positioning or navigation system, each satellite carrying atomic clocks to provide a receiver anywhere on Earth with extremely accurate measurements of its position, velocity and time

Gondwana

the ancient continent, believed to have existed during Paleozoic and Mesozoic times, that eventually split up to form Australia, India, Antarctica, Africa and South America

greenhouse world

a time in Earth-history when the position of the continents, ocean currents, concentration of water vapour, carbon dioxide or other gases resulted in above average global temperatures

hot spot

a mantle plume where rising magma can reach the surface, especially away from the edge of crustal plates

icehouse world

a time in Earth-history when the position of the continents, ocean currents, concentration of water vapour, carbon dioxide or other gases resulted in below average global temperatures

intraplate
earthquakes

an earthquake that
occurs away from the
edges of a crustal plate

lahars

a mudflow or landslide
of pyroclastic material
occurring on the side of
a volcano

lateral fault

a fault where relative
movement between
strata has occurred in
the horizontal plane

Laurasia

the continental landmass
comprising the present-day
continents of North
America, Europe and Asia

lava

molten rock flowing from a
volcano; molten magma
becomes lava when it
reaches the surface

L waves

an earthquake wave that travels over the surface of the Earth

mafic rocks

dark coloured igneous rocks due to high concentrations of ferromagnesian minerals

magma

molten rock when it is under the ground
