Make a Mountain!

Procedure

Safety: Be careful when using scissors. Wear goggles for this investigation.

1. Collaborate Work with a partner. Place a shoebox lid upside down on a flat surface. Then cut a narrow slit along one end of the lid where it bends up.

2. Use Models Line the top of the lid with wax paper. The wax paper should be the width of the slit and about 2.5 cm (1 in.) longer than the lid.

3. Place the wax paper in the lid. Pull one end of the paper about 2.5 cm (1 in.) through the slit. Spread half of the sand at the end of the lid near the slit.

4. Record Data Spread the other half near the center of the lid. Each pile of sand represents the crust on one of Earth’s plates. Draw the model setup.

5. Use Models Slowly pull the wax paper through the slit to model the movement of one of Earth’s plates.
Conclusion

1. **Communicate** Draw what happened to the sand as accurately as you can.

2. **Compare** How does what happened to the sand compare to what happens to rocks in Earth’s crust when two tectonic plates collide?

Experiment

Select materials to model what happens along a divergent plate boundary. Design the model, and then try it out. In a brief oral presentation, **communicate** how it models plate movement.