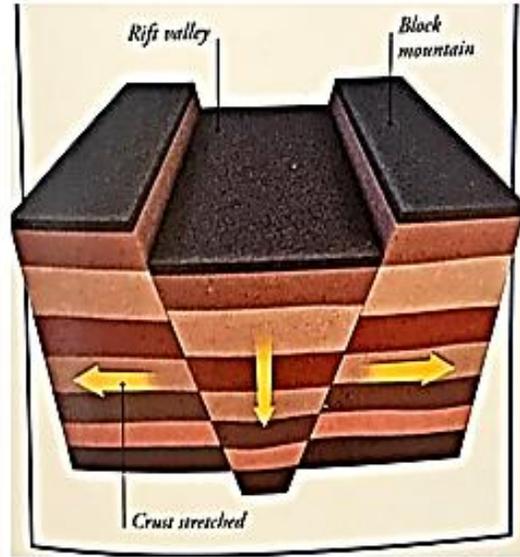


Mountains

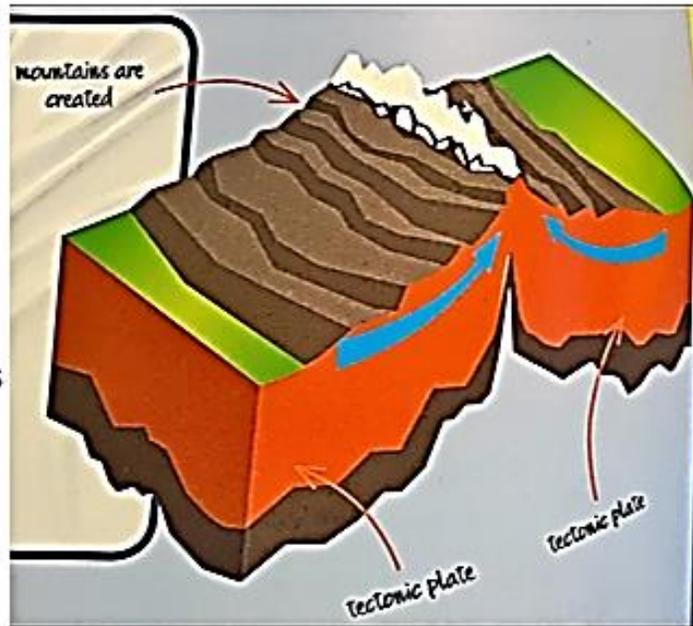
Block Mountains

Sometimes shifting plates can pull continents apart. The stretched rocks fracture, forming faults that allow big blocks of crust to slip downwards and create rift valleys. The rocks on each side are left as back mountains. The African Great Rift Valley was formed like this.



Fold Formation

When two plates move towards each other, the crust between them is pushed upwards. This tends to happen between continental plates. The compression of the crust makes it crease and fold. You can observe the same effect if you push the edges of a tablecloth together, creating ripples in the center.



Key Vocabulary

Continent	A large solid area of land. Earth has seven continents eg Asia, Africa.
Country	A nation with its own government, occupying a particular territory.
Earth Crust	A thin shell that surrounds the entire Earth (Oceanic crust and continental crust).
Fault line	A long crack in the surface of the earth. Earthquakes usually occur along these lines.
Mountain	A large natural elevation of the earth's surface rising abruptly from the surrounding level.
Peak/summit	The pointed top of a mountain.
Tectonic plate	An irregularly shaped slab of solid rock which makes up the surface of the Earth. It glides over the mantle (the rocky inner layer above the core.)
United Kingdom	A country that includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Volcano	A mountain that opens downwards to a pool of molten lava below the surface of the earth.

Plate Tectonic Map of the World

