

# The plate tectonic story: a scientific jigsaw

Ideas and evidence in science – a comprehension exercise

## Learning objectives:

- reading and written communication skills
- that the Earth's surface is composed of **tectonic plates** that move as a result of **convection currents** in the mantle

**Timing:** About 20 minutes

## Introduction:

Pupils read and answer the questions based upon the article *The plate tectonic story: a scientific jigsaw*.

There are two closely related activities which teachers might wish to tackle at the same time. These are:

- *Magnetic stripes on the ocean floor: a lab simulation:* teacher demonstration
- *Magnetic patterns: ocean floor pattern plotting:* analysing magnetic field data – an ideas and evidence in science class activity