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| **G6 Geography - The Earth’s Crust** |

The Earth’s surface is called the **Crust.** The crust is made up of a lot of more or less rigid ‘plates’ that fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. These ‘plates’ are of different thicknesses. Under the oceans it can be as thin as 5km, and as thick as 30km or more under the continents. Where these plates meet is called the **Plate Boundary.** There are 4 main types of plate boundaries, these are…

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| **Plate Boundary** | **Sketch of the plate boundary** | **Example place in the world** |
| The Destructive or Convergent Boundary.  **At this boundary the plates that cover the oceans are pushed under the continental plates. The dipping plate starts to melt because of the high temperatures inside the Earth. Where the plate melts volcanoes and island arcs form.** |  |  |
| A Collision Boundary.  **At this boundary two continental type plates meet. When they meet they do not dip under one another.**  **Instead they fold up into mountains such as the Himalayas and the Pyrenees.** |  |  |
| A Constructive or divergent Boundary.  **This is a growing/spreading boundary. Molten rock known as magma pushes its way up from the centre of the Earth. This means any rock at the surface is pushed aside. By doing this the plate grows as the new molten rock takes its place.** |  |  |
| A Conservative Boundary.  **At this boundary two continental plates meet.**  **They either move in opposite directions to each other, or in the same direction but at different speeds.** |  |  |