

Decoding Plate Names

Overview:

During this lesson students will label each of Earth's plates on a map by decoding the names of the plates. This will help familiarize students with the names and locations of Earth's tectonic plates.

Objectives:

The student will accurately label the following tectonic plates on a map: Eurasian, Philippine, Indo-Australian, North American, Pacific, Cocos, Nazca, Caribbean, South American, Arabian, African, and Antarctic.

Materials:

Student Worksheet: "Cracking the Code"

Activity Procedure:

1. Tell students that today they will learn the names of Earth's plates by cracking a secret code. Distribute the Student Worksheet: "Cracking the Code" to each student and ask them to label each plate by decoding the plate name.
2. Allow students time to complete the Student Worksheet: "Cracking the Code," then discuss the location of each plate.

Answers to Student Worksheet:

1. Eurasian
2. Philippine
3. Indo-Australian
4. North American
5. Pacific
6. Cocos
7. Nazca
8. Caribbean
9. South American
10. Arabian
11. African
12. Antarctic

Cracking the Code

The map shows 12 numbered locations with corresponding word grids:

- 1: V F I Z H R Z M
- 2: K S R O R K R M V
- 3: R M W L - Z F H G I Z O R Z M
- 4: M L I G S
- 5: K Z X R U R X
- 6: X L X L H
- 7: M Z A X Z
- 8: X Z I R Y Y V Z M
- 9: H L F G S
- 10: Z I Z Y R Z M
- 11: Z U I R X Z M
- 12: Z M G Z I X G R X

SECRET CODE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A