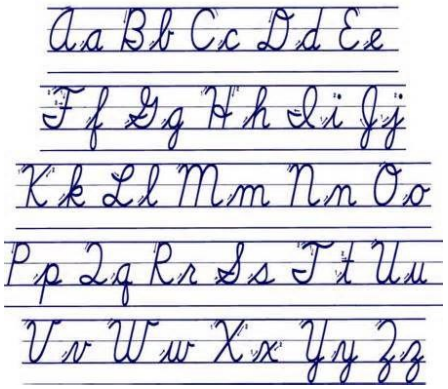
Name _____
Date _____

Cursive Writing

Plate Tectonics

Directions: Copy the following passages using perfect cursive writing.

- **Shape** – letters formed according to D'Nealian standard.
- **Size** – correct height and width, staying on the line.
- **Spacing** – letters and words demonstrate clarity and flow.
- **Slant** – words slanted slightly and consistently.



The earth is made of eight major puzzle pieces called plates. These plates are huge! They include large areas of land above the oceans, like continents, plus all land underwater. These connected plates are constantly pushing, sliding, and pulling apart with tremendous force from the inner earth. They move on average about 6 cm/yr. (A centimeter is about the width of your pinky.) When these plate pieces move, they are called earthquakes! Sometimes the plates move quickly, like a jolt, and sometimes they creep past each other, creating new hills and valleys over time. In any case, they move slowly, and most people do not notice very much change in their lifetime. The boundary, or fault, is where the plates meet. The famous San Andreas Fault runs through a portion of California.

Most of California is on the North American Plate and a small sliver is on the Pacific Plate. Again, these plates are currently sliding past each other at a whopping 6 cm per/year. The small sliver is already breaking off from California at Point Reyes, more specifically, right through the middle of Tomales Bay. Point Reyes National Seashore is leading California north to Alaska!

Once earthquakes are recorded, there needs to be a way to quantify and compare results. The two main earthquake scales are Mercalli and Richter. Trying to predict earthquakes is a difficult task. Currently, it is impossible to give accurate warnings. Seismologists have studied possible predictive indicators like animal behavior, radon release, electromagnetism, rock pressure, and patterns. Sometimes an indicator may look promising, but so far, they cannot be replicated with consistency.