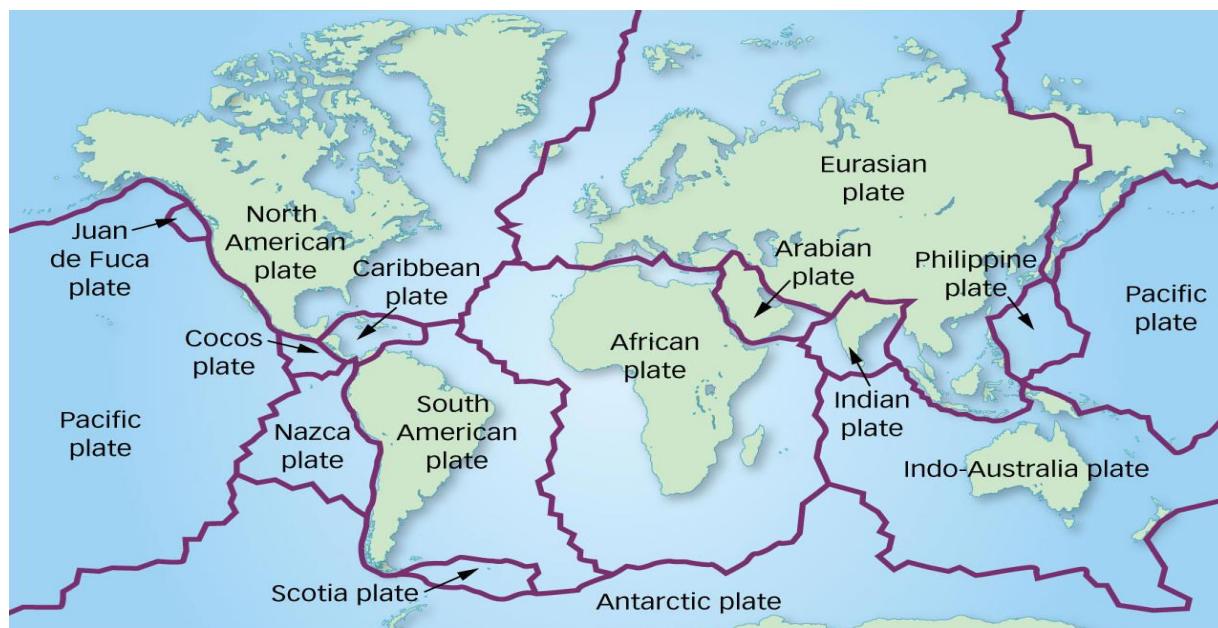


THE TECTONIC PLATES



• What is a tectonic plate ?

They are made of the **crust and a part of the upper mantle**, the most solid one. **Crust and upper mantle break** to become the tectonic plates. Each plate is then composed of **1 layer of crust and 1 layer of solid upper mantle**. This combination is called the « **lithosphere** », and the tectonic plates are made of that. If you put together all the pieces, all the tectonic plates, you have the lithosphere, which recovers the surface of the Earth.

• How do they move ?

Tectonic plates can move. Millions of years ago, the Earth did not look like today : the continents were different, the oceans were different. For years the plates slowly moved to form the Earth that we now know. In millions of years, the continents will again be different than the one we know.

The tectonic plates can **move in 3 different ways** :

