

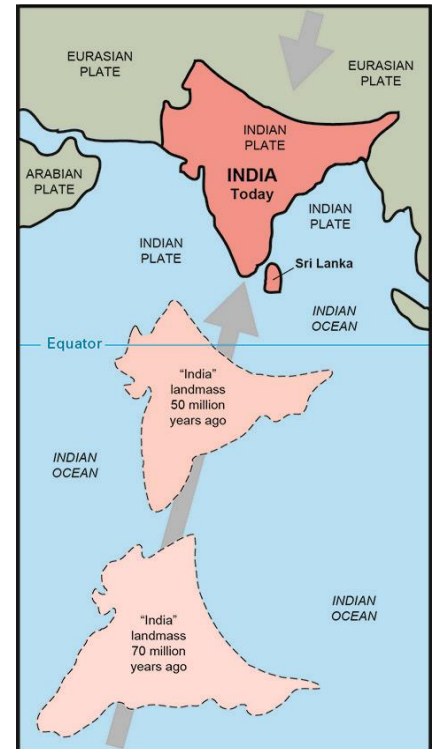
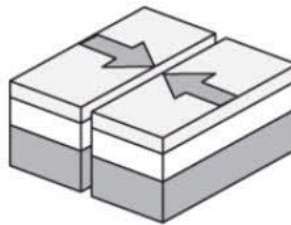
FORMATION OF THE HIMALAYAS

• Movement of the Indian tectonic plate :

Millions of years ago, the tectonic plates were not at the same place. They are always moving, slowly, but for very long time. Because of that, the continents that we know did not look the same at the time.

India was not yet attached to Asia, and it took millions of years before it was.

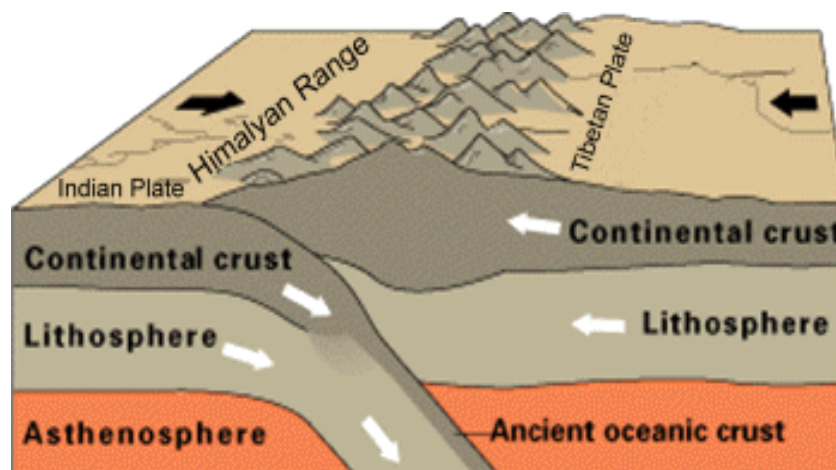
On the image we can see **India moving slowly towards Asia and the Eurasian plate.** The Indian plate is actually much bigger than just India. So before India reaches Asia, **the Indian plate and the Eurasian plate met in a convergent movement.**



• What happened then ?

When 2 tectonic plates meet in a convergent way, **one goes under the other and one goes on top.** The one that goes under is the oldest : **an older plate has a higher density**, and therefore is the one that goes under because **it is heavier.**

In that case, the one that went under was the Indian plate. It went under the Eurasian plate, and pushed it up. As a result, the Eurasian plate went up, sometime broke into pieces. It is that upward movement that gave birth to the Himalayas ! **It took approximately 60-70 million years to create those mountains.**



INDIAN PLATE

EURASIAN PLATE