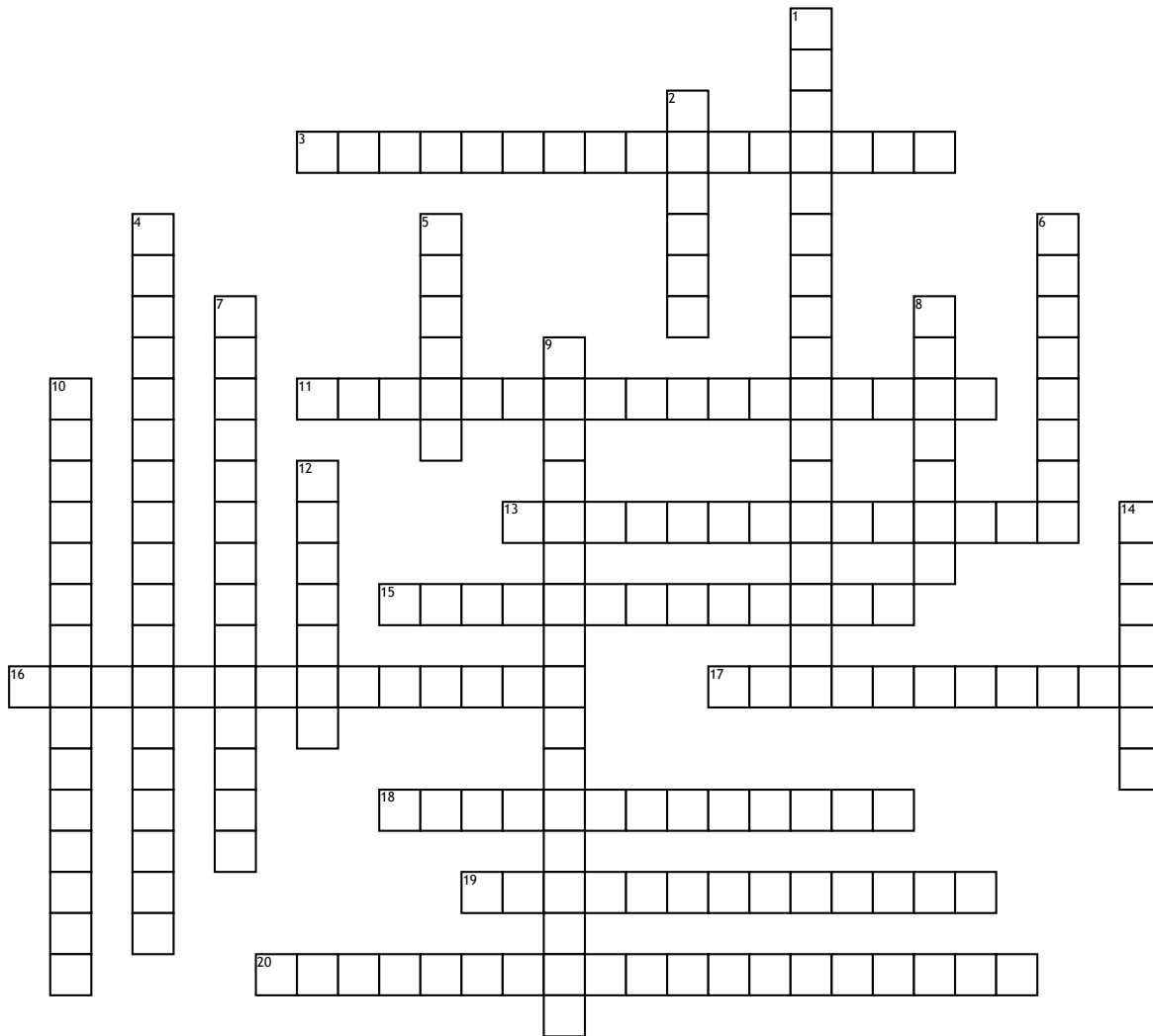


Name: _____

Date: _____

Plate Tectonics



Across

3. The hypothesis that a single large landmass broke up into smaller landmasses to form the continent's which then drifted to their present location.

11. The boundary between two tectonic plates that are moving away from each other.

13. The theory that explains large pieces of the lithosphere called plates move and change shape.

15. Source of heat in the mantle.

16. Places where new sea floor is being created.

17. The single, large ocean that covered earth's surface during the time the supercontinent Pangaea existed.

18. The solid plastic layer of the mantle beneath the lithosphere.

19. A long, undersea chain that has a steep, narrow valley at its center and that creates new organic lithosphere as tectonic plates move apart.

20. The process by which supercontinents form and break apart over millions of years.

Down

1. The primary force that causes the seafloor to spread and continent's to drift.

2. Section of the Earth below the crust.

4. The boundary between tectonic plates that are colliding.

5. Scientist who first proposed that thermal convection in the mantle causes continental drift.

6. Deepest part of the oceans.

7. The study of the alignment of magnetic minerals in rock, specifically as it relates to the reversal of earth's magnetic poles.

8. A piece of lithosphere that has a unique geologic history and that may be part of a larger piece of lithosphere such as a continent.

9. The process by which new organic lithosphere (sea floor) forms as magma rises to Earth's surface and solidifies.

10. Places where the sea floor is forced under continental plates.

12. The process by which earth's crust breaks apart, can occur within continental crust or organic crust.

14. The supercontinent that formed 300 million years ago and that began to break up 200 million years ago.