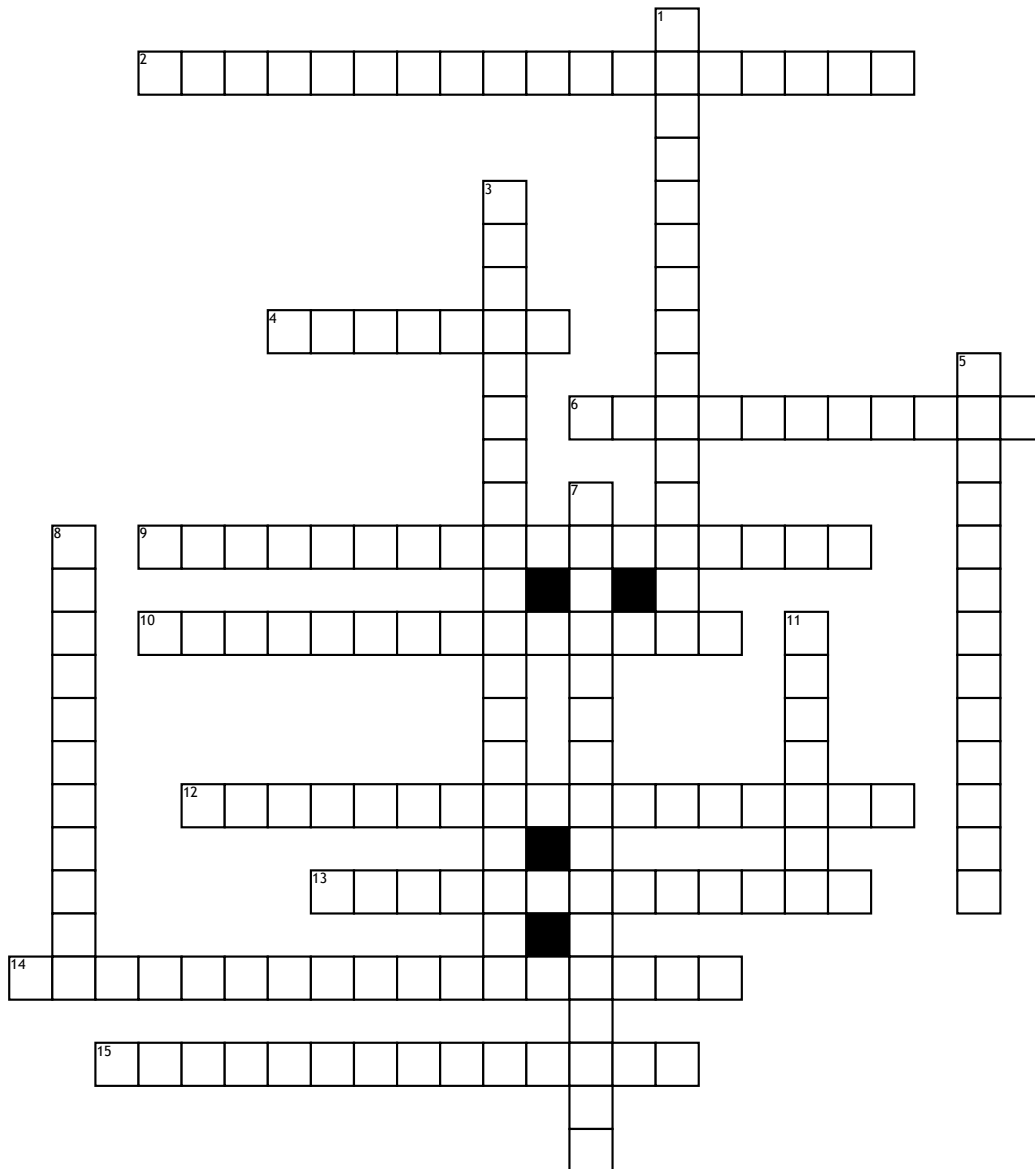


Name: _____

Date: _____

plate tectonics theory



Across

2. The boundary between tectonic plates that are colliding

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Down

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

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

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

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

8. The solid outer layer of earth that consists of the crust and the rigid upper part of the mantle

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