**Plate Tectonics Lesson Plan**

**Smith/Patterson**

**Callanan Middle School**

**Day 1:**  
1. Warm up: Write everything you know about plate tectonics and how the Earth is changing.  
2. Share answers--write on board ideas  
3. Show [http://www.teachersdomain.org/asset/ess05\_int\_tectonic/](https://bl2prd0310.outlook.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=vLjGTn8MsUeFH_LlZqBIRqYUzSLTw88ITxB-qYtZHnnsbcws2yc9bv_fPyAk8T2_6BrC37cXd1Q.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.teachersdomain.org%2fasset%2fess05_int_tectonic%2f). Click the "earthquakes" icon to show where all of the earthquakes happen throughout the world.   
4. Quick Write #1: Where are most of the earthquakes located? What can we conclude by looking at this map?  
5. Share out  
6. Click the "volcanoes" icon.   
7. Quick Write #2: What do you notice about the locations of volcanoes? What do their locations have in common with the earthquakes? What is a possible explanation of this pattern?  
8. Share out  
9. Click the plate tectonics icon  
10. Quick Write #3: What do plate tectonics have in common with volcanoes and earthquakes? What can you predict about plate tectonics?  
10. Show the video attached (2 minutes)  
11. Discuss the video  
12. Have students begin to map out the locations of the plates on a map of the world   
  
**Day 2:**  
1. Warm up: What are plate tectonics? How do they impact geographical features?  
2. Show a map of the Himalayas with the tectonic plates. Have students predict how the Himalayas formed.  
3. [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/everest/earth/shock.html](https://bl2prd0310.outlook.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=vLjGTn8MsUeFH_LlZqBIRqYUzSLTw88ITxB-qYtZHnnsbcws2yc9bv_fPyAk8T2_6BrC37cXd1Q.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.pbs.org%2fwgbh%2fnova%2feverest%2fearth%2fshock.html)--show students this interactive map of the history of how the Himalayas formed. Go through each step to the icon that says "10 million years from now"  
4. Finish map of the world/plate tectonics, homework if students don’t finish.