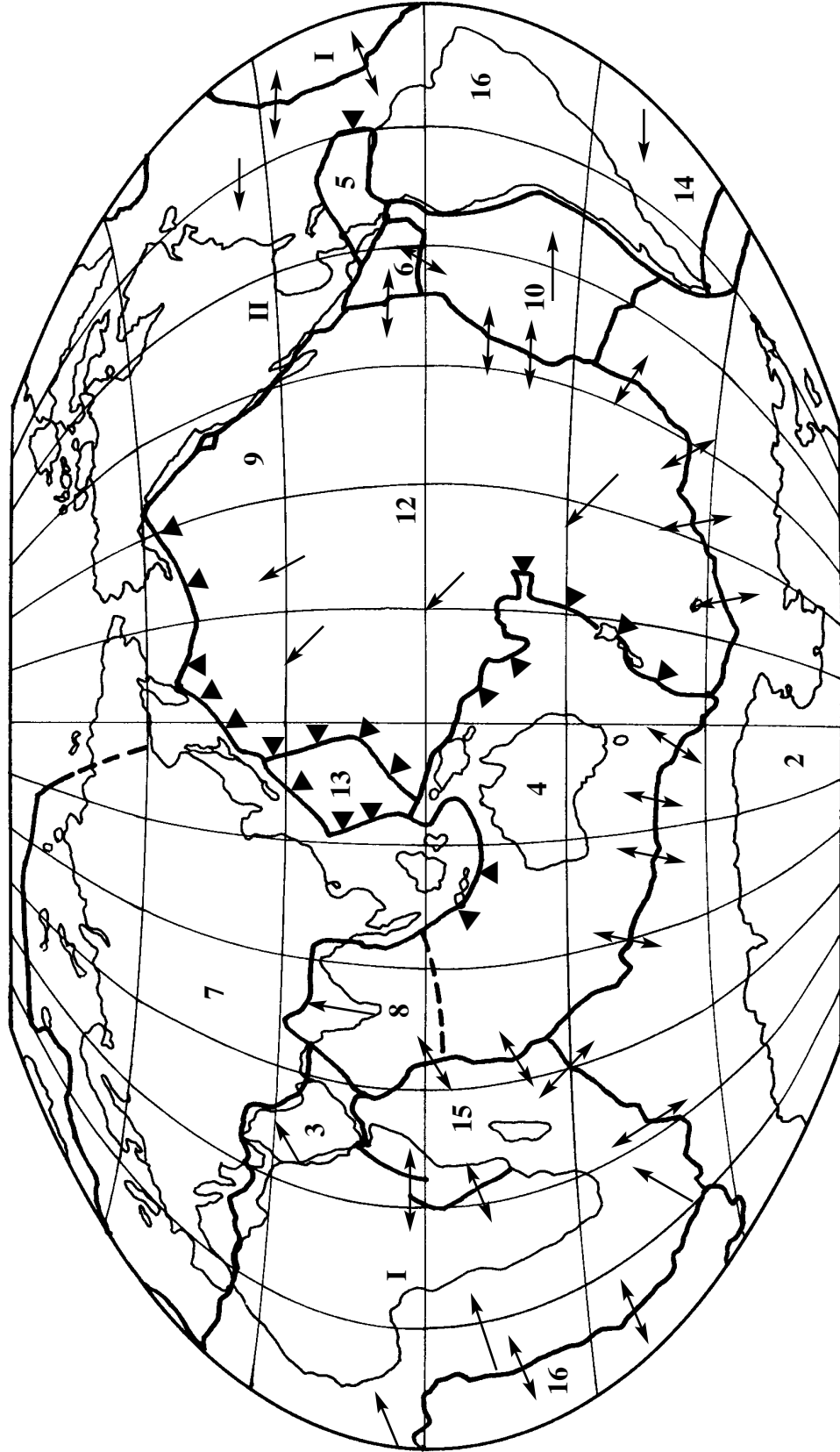




Plate Tectonics (cont.)

Earth's Plates Puzzle

To the Teacher: Cut along the dark lines to make puzzle pieces of this map. Provide a set of puzzle pieces for each group of students to use. If the map is copied on cardstock, the puzzle pieces will be more durable.



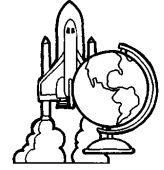


Plate Tectonics *(cont.)*

Plates on the Move

To the Student: Once you have assembled the puzzle of Earth’s plates, complete this data sheet to help you understand what is happening to the Earth’s crust.

Materials:

Earth’s Plates Puzzle, map(s) showing Earth’s crustal plates and ocean floor

Earth’s Crustal Plates Key				
Major Plates			Symbol	Definition
1 African	9 Juan de Fuca		▲	Plate pushes under another plate
2 Antarctic	10 Nazca		↕	Molten rock pushes up between plates, forcing them apart.
3 Arabian	11 North American		↑	Direction of plate’s movement
4 Australian	12 Pacific			
5 Caribbean	13 Philippine			
6 Cocos	14 Scotia			
7 Eurasian	15 Somali			
8 Indian	16 South American			

1. Use the key to label the crustal plates with their names.
2. Look at the northern and western edges of the Pacific Plate on a map to find out what the ocean floor is like in this area and describe it.

Why is this area called the “Ring of Fire”?

3. There are ridges along the southern and southeastern Pacific Plate, as well as going down the center of the Atlantic Ocean. Find these areas on your puzzle and on a map of the ocean floor. Examine the marks on the edges of these plates and then explain what causes the ridges.

4. The Himalayan Mountain range is the highest in the world and continues to rise higher. Use a map to find the location of this mountain range in India. What caused these mountains, and why are they getting higher?
