**Mission 5 – Animating Plate Tectonics**

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Animation 20

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Creating an Animation of Plate Tectonics

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For this assignment, I chose the scenario of making an animation of the interactions between tectonic plate boundaries.

 I chose this example because I am working on Plate Tectonics in Geography right now so it would be helpful to me and my classmates to see what happens at the boundaries between plates. Having an animation that showed the interactions between plates would be extremely helpful in enabling us to visualize what goes on at the boundaries of the plates. This animation would even help us understand earthquakes and other seismic events.

 Animation would be a better form of explain the interactions between the plates, because then we would be able see what happens as plates move around and smash into each other. We would be able to visualize what happens to cause earthquakes, what forms volcanoes and mountains, and what destroys old crust.

 Using Animation I would be able to show the plates moving from a cut-off side view, which obviously isn't possibly to film in real life. I would also be able to show the plates moving, and since in real life they only move at a rate of about two centimeters a year, that would take a very long time indeed to film. Animation would allow me to show in detail; mountains and volcanoes forming, and earthquakes in the process of occurring.

 To begin making this animation, I would first have to learn how the plates interact with each other and how crust in formed and destroyed. I would then have to gather pictures of each of the types of boundaries to use as a reference. Then, finally, I could begin animating it. To actually animate the process I would have to start by creating the various scenes of the different boundaries. I could then work on manipulating the scenes so that they showed the interactions between the plates. Finally, I would be able to put it all together and film the end result.

 This animation would be useful to several people, mostly my classmates, my teacher and I. My teacher might be able to use it as a resource for future classes and my classmates and I would like being able to see exactly what happens in the boundaries between plates and what causes earthquakes.