ACTIVITY 6.3 Experiment: Modelling plate tectonics

Aim
To model plate tectonics.

Materials
250 mL beaker
Sand
Sawdust
Teaspoon
Balsa wood or thick cardboard
Knife or scissors
Bunsen burner

Method
1. Add 150 mL water to a 250 mL beaker.
2. To the water, add three teaspoons of sand and five teaspoons of sawdust and mix together.
3. Cut out a circular section of balsa wood or thick cardboard of the same size as the base of the beaker. Tear this circle into four pieces with jagged edges; put the pieces together again as a complete piece on top of the water in the beaker.
4. Bring the water to a rapid boil using a Bunsen burner placed two-thirds of the way across, under the beaker, as shown in the diagram on page 72.
5. Turn off the heat when the mixture is boiling.
6. Record your observations while heating, during boiling and while cooling.