Feasting on Faults by Michelle B. Buchanan

Grade level: 4

NGSS Reference: ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions

Objectives: The student will investigate, make observations, and analyze geologic processes of plate tectonics. Key concepts include:

- a) how geologic processes are evidenced in Antarctic mountains;
- b) tectonic processes (compressional, tensional, and transversal forces).

Procedures for Learning Experience	Guiding Questions	Materials	Evaluation	Time
Engage: Show students a Polar TREC video 1:40-4:00 minute time mark on the video (http://youtu.be/8AZtWBLBMsY). Ask students to describe the different types of landforms they saw in the video.	through effective	Internet access Projector	Student Answers during whole class discussion	5 min.
Explore: Provide students cylinder-shaped gum, markers, and three index cards. Tell the students that the gum represents land. As students begin to manipulate the gum, remind them that they are to mimic natural processes (to prevent them from pressing down on the gum). Have students write their three different gum manipulations each on a card with the marker and place the manipulated gum on the corresponding card.	different ways their piece of "Earth" can change shape.	gum (i.e., Double	descriptions on index cars	10 min.

Procedures for Learning	Guiding Questions	Materials	Evaluation	Time
Experience	Questions			
to share their work and compare it to what they saw from other groups. Pass out the Student Worksheet to each student. Have students identify three actions that were the same throughout most groups: push	How does this gum represent Earth? What happens when you push on both ends of the gum? What happens when you pull both ends of the gum apart?	Worksheet Whiteboard for whole class discussion	Student answers during whole class discussion	10 min.
happening in each. Elaborate: Using the Internet (single computer station, whole class viewing, or iPads for small groups of students), the students will further investigate	What type of geologic feature would resemble pulling apart the gum? (valley, trench) Pushing together the gum? (mountain,	Student Worksheet Computer with Internet access Projector	Student Answers	20 min.
Extend: Give students the Ticket-Out-The-Door (last part of the Student Worksheet) for final evaluation of student understanding. Note: This lesson will serve as a		e Theory of Plate	Student Answers Tectonics This less	

Note: This lesson will serve as an introduction to the Theory of Plate Tectonics. This lesson was adapted from http://bit.ly/11Cjmu0