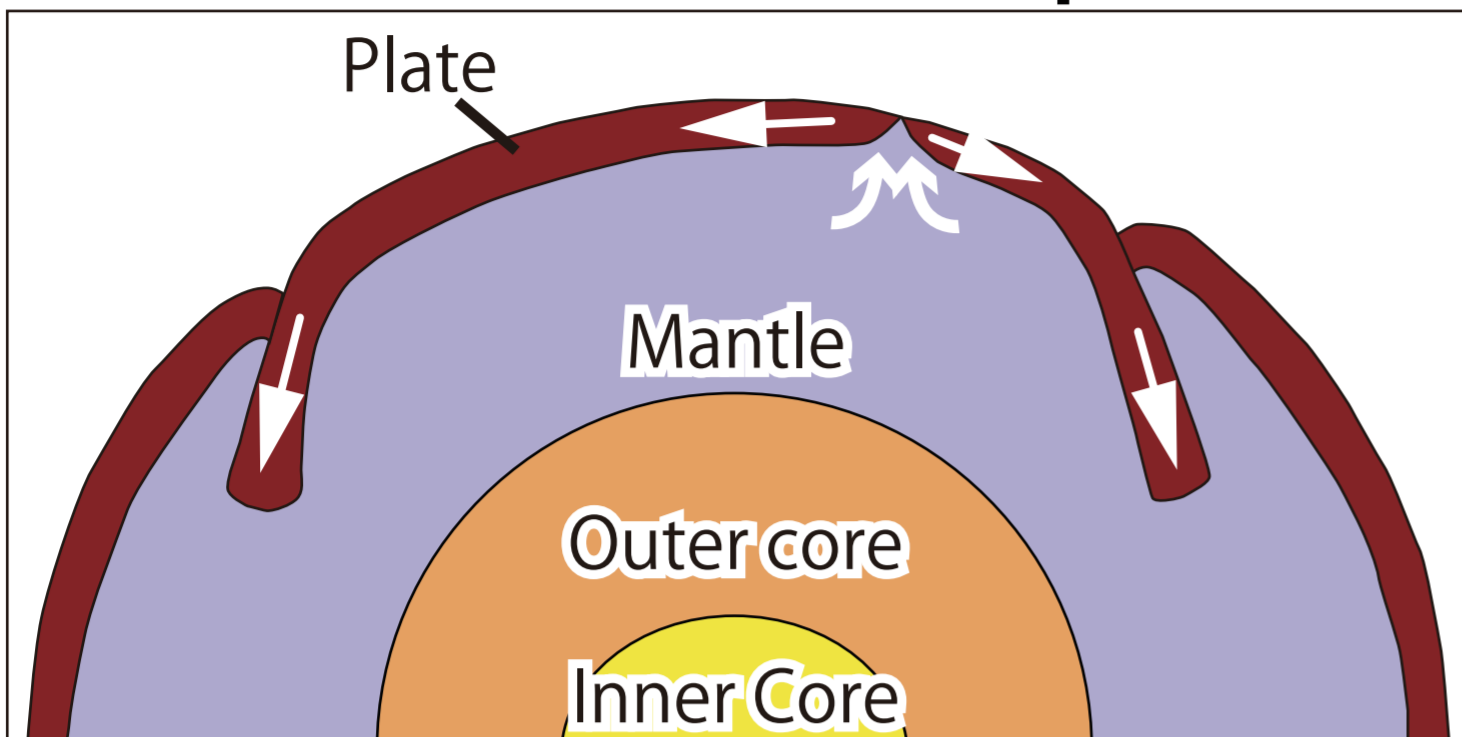


③ Why does an earthquake occur?

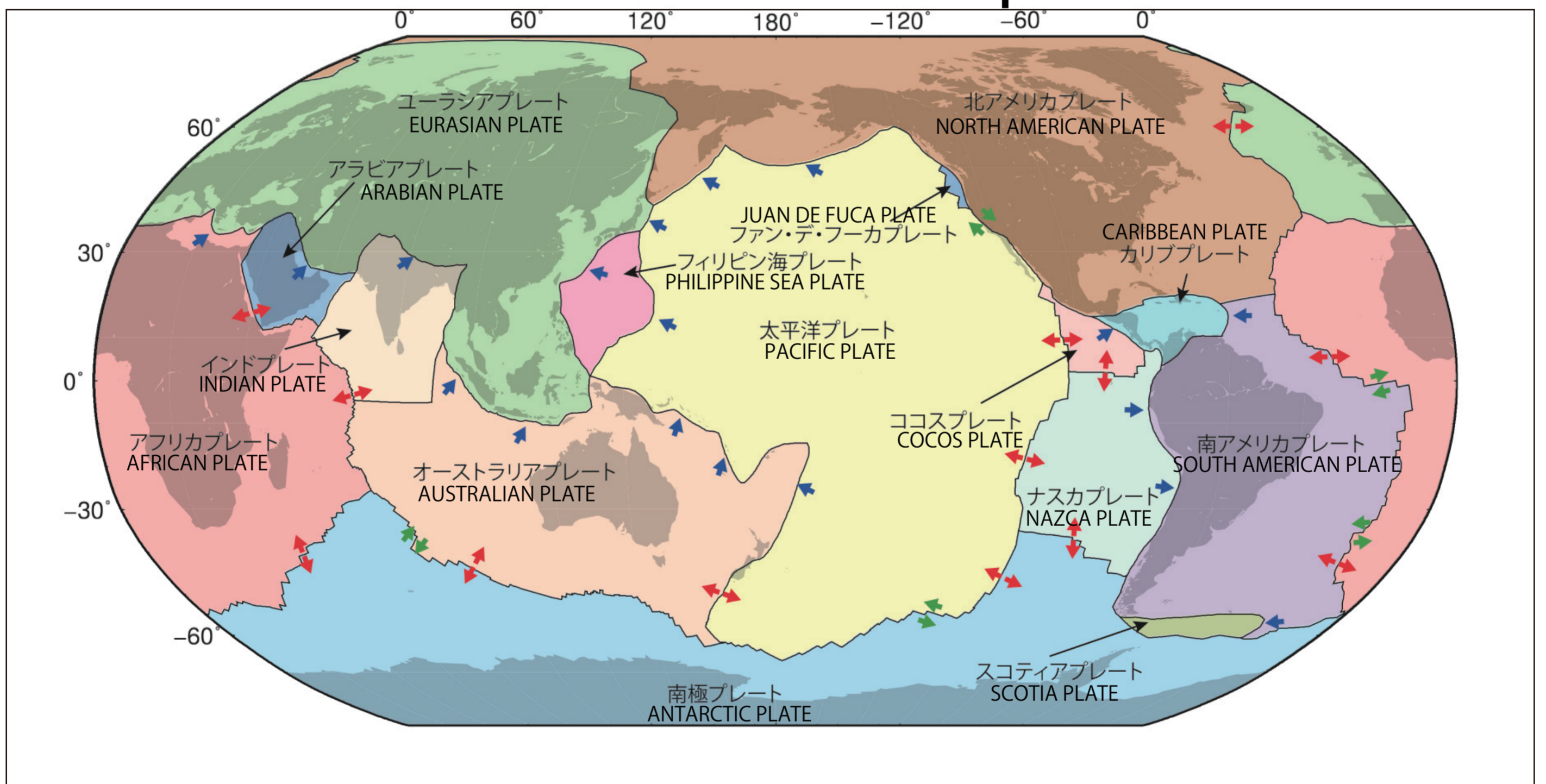
Earth cross section and plate



The surface of the earth is covered with a dozen or so hard rock plates called **plates**.



Distribution and direction of movement of plates on the earth



Source: https://home.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/nakakuki/plate_mantle/pm1.html

Each plate moves at a speed of several centimeters a year. Then, when the plates push against each other or one of them sinks under the other, strain accumulates inside the plate, and when it becomes unbearable, the plate suddenly shifts. This phenomenon is an earthquake.

