Earthquake mapping activity

Day 2 lesson overview: Students will plot EQ data and infer the locations of the tectonic plate boundaries based on the patterns of dots.

1. Visit USGS.gov to access information about the most recent earthquakes, along with the locations (latitude and longitude).
2. Provide each pair of students with a data sheet with the locations of 10 earthquakes, a world map, a transparency sheet, and a dry erase marker. Students should place the transparancy over the world map and locate their 10 earthquakes on the world map by representing each earthquake as a dot.

1. If needed, provide a brief review of the cardinal directions and how to use latitude and longitude. Model how to find a few earthquakes as a whole class prior to students working in pairs.
2. Once all students have finished, have students place all of their transparencies on top of one map. A pattern of dots from the class's data should appear. Ask students questions such as:
    a. What do you observe?
    b. Do you notice any patterns?
    c. Let's draw some lines to connect the dots.
    d. If you lived on the line, would it be likely that this location would experience earthquakes? Why do you think so?