

Plate Tectonics in Action

Will California fall into the Pacific Ocean?

There is nowhere for California to fall. However, Los Angeles and San Francisco will one day be next to one another!

Let's find out how long it will take.

What We Know

- Distance between Los Angeles and San Francisco: about 400 miles
- The Pacific Plate is moving approximately 46 millimeters (mm) per year.

Our Formula

1. Multiply the # of miles by 1.609 to get approximate kilometers (km).

_____ x 1.609 = _____ km

2. Determine # of millimeters in one kilometer.

1000 millimeters in 1 meter

1000 meters in 1 kilometer

_____ mm = 1 km

Multiple the distance in kilometers by the # of millimeters in 1 kilometer.

_____ km X _____ = _____

Divide the distance in millimeters by the rate of movement each year.

Years it will take for Los Angeles to be next to San Francisco.
