The chart below makes a set of connections between the *NGSS* and the article. There are other connections that can be identified by the readers.	
Standard: MS-ESS2.B – Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions *https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/dci-arrangement/MS-ESS26.21.17.pdf*	
Performance Expectations: MS-ESS2-3. Analyze and interpret data on the distribution of fossils and rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of the past plate motions.	
DIMENSIONS	CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS
Science and Engineering Practices	
Communication	Students communicate their initial ideas through speech, writing, and drawing and their final understanding through a presentation.
Constructing explanations	Students construct an explanation of plate movement from observations of the model.
Developing and using models	Students use graham crackers to create a dynamic model of the Earth plates.
Disciplinary Core Ideas	
ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions ♣ Maps of ancient land and water patterns, based on investigations of rocks and fossils, make clear how Earth's plates have moved great distances, collided, and spread apart. (MS-ESS2-3)	Working in small groups, students move crackers over a soft surface to model the Earth's plates colliding and spreading apart to form mountains and rifts.

Crosscutting Concepts	
Cause & effect	Students use the movement they observe as the cause for the results that they observe in the 'crust' as mountains and rifts are formed.
Patterns	Students visit all groups to compare their 'geological event' in order to look for similarities and differences.