## **Comparative Planetology**

### 12.001 – 4 December 2013





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#### During gravitational differentiation, iron sank to the center and lighter material floated upward...

...to give us Earth as a layered planet.

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Mars



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#### MARS CRUSTAL MAGNETISM ΔBr MARS GLOBAL SURVEYOR MAG/ER



Connemey, J. E. P. et al., (2005) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 102, No. 42, 14970-14975.

Courtesy of NASA. Figure in the public domain.

Source: Connerney, J. E. P., M. H. Acuña, et al. "Tectonic Implications of Mars Crustal Magnetism." *Proceedings* of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America 102, no. 42 (2005): 14970-75.

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# Fault scarp produced by cooling and contraction of Mercury



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#### (a) Plate tectonics on Earth



#### (b) Flake tectonics on Venus

5 On Venus, more vigorous convection currents prevent thick crust from forming, and push and stretch the thin crust that does form.

6 The crust breaks up into flakes or crumples like a rug.

7 Blobs of hot magma bubble up to form large landmasses, mountains, and volcanic deposits.

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