

Plate Tectonics

8th Grade

Why earthquakes and volcanoes happen where they do.

Earth's crust is broken into plates that move a few centimetres a year.

Boundary	Movement	Creates
Divergent	plates move apart	new crust, mid-ocean ridges
Convergent	plates collide	mountains, trenches, volcanoes
Transform	plates slide past	earthquakes, faults

Convection in the mantle drives the movement. The plates float on rock that flows very slowly.