

Name _____

Shaking Grounds: The Causes of Earthquakes

Short Answer Key

1. Seafloor spreading is the process of creating new crust at divergent boundaries, where tectonic plates move apart. As new crust forms, it can lead to earthquakes due to the release of energy.
2. Divergent boundaries (e.g., Mid-Atlantic Ridge), convergent boundaries (e.g., Himalayan Mountains), and transform boundaries (e.g., San Andreas Fault) are common plate boundaries where earthquakes occur.
3. The release of energy during an earthquake causes the ground to shake as seismic waves radiate outward from the fault where the stress was released.
4. The three types of faults are normal faults (plates move apart), reverse faults (plates move towards each other), and strike-slip faults (plates slide past each other horizontally). They differ in terms of the direction of movement.
5. The Richter scale is significant in measuring earthquakes because it quantifies the magnitude of an earthquake, which indicates its size and the amount of energy released.

