

Informational Reading: Cause & Effect of Earthquakes



Use the matching sheet ID when checking answers.

Read the informational text on tectonic plate motion and answer the questions on cause and effect.

1. According to the passage, what is the initial CAUSE of stress building up along fault lines?

Answer: A. Continuous plate motion encountering friction at jagged boundaries.

Paragraph 1 explicitly explains: 'Because these plates move continuously in different directions, friction causes them to lock together at their jagged boundaries... stress builds up.'

2. What is the direct EFFECT when the built-up stress finally exceeds the strength of the rock?

Answer: B. The plates abruptly slip, releasing energy as seismic waves.

Paragraph 2 states that when stress exceeds rock strength, plates suddenly slip, releasing seismic waves that cause earthquake shaking.