



What is the mechanism by which tectonic plates move?

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- A. Convection within Earth's mantle.
- B. Plate drift.
- C. Subduction of smaller plates.
- D. Earthquakes.

Show Answer...

Correct Answer: A (Convection within Earth's mantle)

Explanation:

Tectonic plates move due to convection currents within the Earth's mantle. The mantle is made up of hot, molten rock that flows in a circular motion due to differences in temperature and density. As this hot rock rises, it pushes against the overlying tectonic plates, causing them to move apart. The movement of these plates can result in a number of geological phenomena, such as the formation of mountain ranges, earthquakes, and volcanic activity. Plate drift and subduction of smaller plates are processes that result from the movement of tectonic plates, but they are not the mechanisms that drive plate movement. Earthquakes are also a result of plate movement, but they are not the mechanism that drives plate movement either.

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