

UK Earth Science Facts

Earth Science · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which geological era is characterized by the formation of the majority of the UK's oldest rocks, such as the Lewisian Gneiss of Scotland?

- A) Mesozoic
- B) Paleozoic
- C) Precambrian**
- D) Cenozoic

2. The Great Glen Fault, a major strike-slip fault, runs diagonally across which part of the UK?

- A) South West England
- B) Northern Ireland
- C) Central Wales
- D) Scotland**

3. What is the primary geological process responsible for the formation of the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland?

- A) Glacial erosion
- B) Volcanic activity**
- C) Sediment deposition
- D) Metamorphism

4. Which of the following is the deepest lake in the UK?

- A) Loch Ness
- B) Lake Windermere
- C) Loch Morar**
- D) Ennerdale Water

5. The White Cliffs of Dover are primarily composed of what sedimentary rock?

- A) Sandstone
- B) Limestone**
- C) Shale
- D) Granite

6. During the Pleistocene epoch, the UK was significantly impacted by glaciation. Which of the following features is a direct result of glacial deposition?

- A) The Cheddar Gorge
- B) The Pennines
- C) The Fenlands**
- D) The Peak District

7. The North Sea oil and gas fields are located within which major geological basin?

- A) Weald Basin
- B) South Permian Basin
- C) Moray Firth Basin**
- D) Bristol Channel Basin

8. Which region of the UK is known for its significant coal mining history, with deposits formed during the Carboniferous period?

- A) The Lake District
- B) The Scottish Highlands
- C) South Wales and the Midlands**
- D) Cornwall

9. The UK experiences a temperate maritime climate. What is the primary ocean current influencing this?

- A) The Gulf Stream**
- B) The California Current
- C) The Kuroshio Current
- D) The Humboldt Current

10. Fossilised remains of Jurassic marine reptiles, such as Ichthyosaurs and Plesiosaurs, are commonly found along which stretch of the English coast?

- A) The Norfolk Coast
- B) The Jurassic Coast**
- C) The Northumberland Coast
- D) The Lancashire Coast

11. What type of igneous rock forms the bulk of the Cuillin Hills on the Isle of Skye?

- A) Basalt
- B) Granite
- C) Gabbro**
- D) Rhyolite

12. The Mendip Hills in Somerset are characterized by extensive karst topography. What geological process is primarily responsible for this?

- A) Aeolian erosion
- B) Chemical weathering of soluble rocks**
- C) Physical weathering of hard rocks
- D) Volcanic erosion

13. Which major river system in England is known for its tidal bore, a phenomenon caused by the incoming tide being funnelled into a narrowing estuary?

A) River Thames

B) River Severn

C) River Mersey

D) River Tyne

14. The process of isostatic rebound is still occurring in parts of the UK, particularly Scotland. What is this rebound a consequence of?

A) Tectonic plate collision

B) Volcanic uplift

C) Melting of past ice sheets

D) Erosion by rivers

15. What is the approximate average annual rainfall for the UK, often cited in meteorological contexts?

A) 500 mm

B) 750 mm

C) 1150 mm

D) 1500 mm