

Continents and Oceans: Scientific Exploration

Continents & Oceans · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which geological theory explains the movement of Earth's lithospheric plates, which form and shape the continents and ocean basins?

- A) Uniformitarianism
- B) Catastrophism
- C) Plate Tectonics**
- D) Neptunism

2. The Mariana Trench, the deepest known part of the world's oceans, is located in which ocean?

- A) Atlantic Ocean
- B) Indian Ocean
- C) Arctic Ocean
- D) Pacific Ocean**

3. What is the smallest continent by land area?

- A) Europe
- B) Australia**
- C) Antarctica
- D) South America

4. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is a prominent underwater mountain range formed by what type of plate boundary?

- A) Convergent boundary
- B) Transform boundary
- C) Divergent boundary**
- D) Subduction zone

5. Which continent is the driest and has the lowest average annual precipitation?

- A) South America
- B) Africa
- C) Australia
- D) Antarctica**

6. The 'Ring of Fire,' a horseshoe-shaped zone known for its high seismic activity and volcanic eruptions, encircles which ocean?

- A) Indian Ocean
- B) Atlantic Ocean
- C) Pacific Ocean**
- D) Southern Ocean

7. Approximately what percentage of the Earth's surface is covered by oceans?

- A) 51%
- B) 61%
- C) 71%**
- D) 81%

8. The Great Rift Valley, a series of trenches that formed as the African continent begins to split apart, is primarily located on which continent?

- A) Asia
- B) Africa**
- C) North America
- D) Europe

9. Which of the following is NOT considered one of the five major oceans?

- A) Atlantic Ocean
- B) Indian Ocean
- C) Southern Ocean
- D) Mediterranean Sea**

10. The landmass that is believed to have connected Asia and North America during the Pleistocene epoch, allowing for migration, is known as:

- A) Gondwana
- B) Laurasia
- C) Pangaea
- D) Beringia**

11. The deepest point in the Atlantic Ocean is the Puerto Rico Trench. Which ocean is the deepest on average?

- A) Indian Ocean
- B) Pacific Ocean**
- C) Arctic Ocean
- D) Atlantic Ocean

12. Which continent is traversed by the Equator, the Prime Meridian, and the Tropic of Capricorn?

- A) South America
- B) Australia
- C) Africa**
- D) Asia

13. The vast majority of Earth's freshwater is locked up in ice, primarily on which continent?

A) Greenland

B) Antarctica

C) Canada

D) Siberia

14. The Indian Ocean is the warmest ocean on average. What is the primary reason for its higher average temperature compared to other oceans?

A) Greater depth

B) Proximity to the equator and limited mixing with colder waters

C) Higher salinity

D) Less influence from ocean currents

15. The Andes Mountains, the longest continental mountain range in the world, are located on which continent?

A) North America

B) Africa

C) Asia

D) South America