

Basic Physical Geography Facts

Physical Geography · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. What is the largest ocean on Earth?

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

2. Which is the longest river in the world?

- A) Amazon River
- B) Nile River**
- C) Mississippi River
- D) Yangtze River

3. What gas makes up the majority of Earth's atmosphere?

- A) Oxygen
- B) Carbon Dioxide
- C) Nitrogen**
- D) Argon

4. What is the highest mountain in the world?

- A) K2
- B) Kangchenjunga
- C) Mount Everest**
- D) Makalu

5. Which layer of the Earth is the thinnest?

- A) Mantle
- B) Core
- C) Crust**
- D) Outer Core

6. What is the process by which water changes from a liquid to a gas?

- A) Condensation
- B) Precipitation
- C) Evaporation**
- D) Sublimation

7. What causes seasons on Earth?

- A) The distance from the Sun
- B) The tilt of Earth's axis**
- C) The Moon's gravity
- D) The speed of Earth's rotation

8. Which continent is the driest on Earth?

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

9. What is a large area of flat land with few trees called?

- A) Mountain
- B) Valley
- C) Plateau
- D) Plain**

10. What are large, natural elevations of the Earth's surface rising abruptly from the surrounding level called?

- A) Hills
- B) Plateaus
- C) Canyons
- D) Mountains**

11. What is the imaginary line that runs north to south through the North and South Poles?

- A) Equator
- B) Tropic of Cancer
- C) Prime Meridian**
- D) Latitude Line

12. What is the term for the movement of water from land to the ocean?

- A) Infiltration
- B) Runoff**
- C) Transpiration
- D) Evaporation

13. What type of climate is characterized by very hot summers and very cold winters?

- A) Tropical
- B) Arid
- C) Temperate**
- D) Polar

14. What is the process by which water vapor in the air becomes liquid water?

- A) Evaporation
- B) Precipitation
- C) Condensation**
- D) Collection

15. Which is the largest desert in the world (including cold deserts)?

- A) Sahara Desert
- B) Arabian Desert
- C) Gobi Desert
- D) Antarctic Desert**

16. What is the force that pulls objects toward the center of the Earth?

- A) Magnetism
- B) Inertia
- C) Gravity**
- D) Friction

17. What is a large body of saltwater surrounded by land?

- A) Ocean
- B) River
- C) Lake**
- D) Strait

18. Which geological process forms mountains over millions of years?

- A) Erosion
- B) Volcanism
- C) Tectonic Plate Movement**
- D) Weathering