

Fundamentals of Geology

Geology · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the hardest naturally occurring mineral on the Mohs Hardness Scale?

- A) Quartz
- B) Diamond**
- C) Feldspar
- D) Calcite

2. Which layer of the Earth is composed primarily of liquid iron and nickel?

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

3. What are rocks made of?

- A) Water
- B) Minerals**
- C) Gas
- D) Organic matter

4. The process by which rocks are transformed from one type to another is called:

- A) Erosion
- B) Weathering
- C) The Rock Cycle**
- D) Sedimentation

5. Which type of rock is formed from the cooling and solidification of molten rock (magma or lava)?

- A) Sedimentary
- B) Metamorphic
- C) Igneous**
- D) Crystalline

6. What force is primarily responsible for plate tectonics?

- A) Wind
- B) Gravity
- C) Convection currents in the mantle**
- D) The moon's pull

7. Which of these is a common example of a sedimentary rock?

- A) Granite
- B) Marble
- C) Sandstone**
- D) Basalt

8. Earthquakes are most commonly caused by:

- A) Volcanic eruptions
- B) Tsunamis
- C) The sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust**
- D) Meteorite impacts

9. What is the outermost solid shell of a rocky planet, dwarf planet, or natural satellite called?

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

10. Which type of rock is formed when existing rocks are changed by heat, pressure, or chemical reactions?

- A) Igneous
- B) Sedimentary
- C) Metamorphic**
- D) Extrusive

11. Fossils are typically found in which type of rock?

- A) Igneous
- B) Metamorphic
- C) Sedimentary**
- D) Intrusive

12. The process of breaking down rocks and minerals into smaller pieces is called:

- A) Erosion
- B) Deposition
- C) Weathering**
- D) Compaction

13. What is the scientific study of the Earth's physical past and present and the processes that shape it called?

- A) Astronomy
- B) Biology
- C) Geology**
- D) Meteorology

14. What is a naturally occurring, inorganic solid with a definite chemical composition and a specific crystal structure called?

- A) Rock
- B) Mineral**
- C) Element
- D) Compound

15. Which geological feature is formed at the boundary where two tectonic plates move away from each other?

- A) Mountain range
- B) Volcano
- C) Ocean trench
- D) Rift valley**

16. The thickest layer of the Earth is the:

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

17. Which of these is a common example of an igneous rock?

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

18. What is the term for the gradual wearing away of landforms by wind, water, or ice?

- A) Deposition
- B) Weathering
- C) Erosion**
- D) Subsidence

19. Where do most volcanoes and earthquakes occur?

A) In the middle of continents

B) Along plate boundaries

C) In deserts

D) Deep in the oceans

20. What is the process called when sediments are squeezed and cemented together to form rock?

A) Melting

B) Metamorphism

C) Lithification

D) Crystallization