

Fundamentals of Geology

Geology · Practice Test · 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