

Physical Geography Foundations

Physical Geography · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which layer of the Earth is composed primarily of semi-molten rock and causes tectonic plate movement?

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

2. What is the primary factor that determines the classification of a region as a desert?

- A) High temperatures
- B) Lack of vegetation
- C) Low annual precipitation**
- D) Distance from the ocean

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

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

4. The imaginary line that divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres is known as the:

- A) Prime Meridian
- B) Tropic of Capricorn
- C) Arctic Circle
- D) Equator**

5. Which process involves the breakdown of rocks into smaller particles by wind, water, or ice?

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

6. What is the name of the supercontinent that existed approximately 300 million years ago?

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

7. Which of the following is a result of the Earth's rotation on its axis?

- A) The seasons
- B) Day and night**
- C) Tectonic plate shifts
- D) Global warming

8. Where are the majority of the world's active volcanoes located?

- A) The Ring of Fire**
- B) The Mid-Atlantic Ridge
- C) The Sahara Desert
- D) The Himalayan Range

9. Which gas makes up the largest percentage of Earth's atmosphere?

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

10. A delta is a landform created at the mouth of a river by the process of:

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

11. The process where water vapor turns back into liquid water to form clouds is called:

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

12. Which of these is considered a non-renewable natural resource?

- A) Solar energy
- B) Coal**
- C) Wind energy
- D) Tidal power

13. What is the term for the height of land above sea level?

- A) Latitude
- B) Longitude
- C) Altitude**
- D) Gradient

14. Which ocean is the largest by surface area on Earth?

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

15. The Richter scale is used to measure the intensity of which natural phenomenon?

- A) Hurricanes
- B) Earthquakes**
- C) Tsunamis
- D) Volcanic eruptions

16. What type of plate boundary occurs when two tectonic plates slide past each other horizontally?

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

17. Which climate zone typically experiences high temperatures and high rainfall throughout the year?

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

18. What is the name of the layer of gases that surrounds the Earth?

- A) Hydrosphere
- B) Lithosphere
- C) Biosphere

D) Atmosphere

19. Which of these is a direct consequence of global sea-level rise?

A) Coastal flooding

- B) Increased volcanic activity
- C) Drier inland climates
- D) Stronger tectonic plates

20. What is the primary source of energy that drives the Earth's water cycle?

- A) Geothermal heat
- B) The Moon's gravity

C) The Sun

- D) Tidal friction

21. Which feature is typically found at a divergent plate boundary?

- A) Mountain range
- B) Deep-sea trench

C) Mid-ocean ridge

- D) Volcanic island arc

22. The study of the distribution and patterns of plants and animals across the globe is known as:

- A) Meteorology

B) Biogeography

- C) Geomorphology
- D) Hydrology

23. Which mineral is the most common component of sand on most beaches?

A) Quartz

- B) Calcite
- C) Feldspar
- D) Mica

24. What is the name of the process by which glaciers carve U-shaped valleys into mountains?

A) Glacial deposition

B) Glacial scouring

C) Glacial retreat

D) Glacial ablation

25. Which of these factors most significantly influences the salinity of ocean water?

A) Wind speed

B) Depth of the water

C) Rate of evaporation

D) Presence of coral reefs