Advanced Physical Geography

Physical Geography · Practice Test · 12 Questions

1. Which specific tectonic process is primarily responsible for the formation of the volcanic arcs found in the Pacific Ring of Fire?

A) Continental rifting
B) Subduction of oceanic plates
C) Transform faulting
D) Isostatic adjustment

2. What is the term for the characteristic S-shaped curve in a river that forms as it erodes its outer banks and deposits sediment on its inner banks?

A) Braided channel
B) Oxbow lake
C) Meander
D) Thalweg

3. In the context of soil science, which soil horizon consists primarily of organic matter, such as decomposing leaves and twigs?

A) A-horizon
B) B-horizon
C) C-horizon
D) O-horizon

4. The Coriolis effect, which influences global wind patterns, is a result of which physical property of Earth?

A) Differential solar heating
B) Gravitational pull of the Moon
C) Variation in surface albedo
D) Earth's axial rotation

5. Which glacial feature is a long, winding ridge of stratified sand and gravel deposited by subglacial meltwater streams?

A) Drumlin
B) Esker
C) Moraine
D) Kame

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6. What is the primary mineral component of the Earth's continental crust?

A) Feldspar and quartz
B) Olivine and pyroxene
C) Calcite and dolomite
D) Halite and gypsum

7. The 'thermocline' is a distinct layer in a body of water characterized by what?

A) Rapid change in salinity
B) Rapid change in temperature
C) Constant high pressure
D) Uniform density

8. Which geological phenomenon describes the settling or sinking of the Earth's surface due to the removal of underground fluids or mining?

A) Subduction
B) Subsidence
C) Liquefaction
D) Aggradation

9. What is the specific term for the maximum amount of water vapor a given volume of air can hold at a specific temperature?

A) Relative humidity
B) Saturation vapor pressure
C) Dew point
D) Mixing ratio

10. In desert landscapes, what is the name of the feature formed by the wind-driven erosion of rocks, often shaped like a mushroom?

A) Yardang
B) Ventifact
C) Zeugen
D) Pediment

11. Which chemical weathering process involves the reaction of minerals with water to form new minerals, such as the conversion of feldspar to clay?

A) Carbonation
B) Oxidation
C) Hydrolysis
D) Hydration

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12. What is the name of the boundary layer between the troposphere and the stratosphere where temperature ceases to decrease with altitude?

A) Mesopause
B) Tropopause
C) Stratopause
D) Ionosphere

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