

# North American Earth Science Explorer

Earth Science · Answer Key · 20 Questions

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**1. Which mountain range in North America is the oldest and was once as tall as the Himalayas?**

A) Rocky Mountains

**B) Appalachian Mountains**

C) Sierra Nevada

D) Cascade Range

**2. The Great Lakes in North America were primarily formed by what geological process?**

A) Volcanic eruptions

B) Tectonic plate movement

**C) Glacial erosion**

D) River delta formation

**3. What is the primary type of rock that makes up the majority of the Canadian Shield, a vast geological craton?**

A) Sedimentary rock

B) Metamorphic rock

**C) Igneous rock**

D) Volcanic rock

**4. The Grand Canyon, carved by the Colorado River, exposes rock layers that are approximately how old?**

A) 1 million years old

B) 100 million years old

**C) 2 billion years old**

D) 500 million years old

**5. Which of the following North American deserts is known for its extreme heat and the lowest elevation in North America?**

A) Mojave Desert

B) Sonoran Desert

C) Chihuahuan Desert

**D) Death Valley**

**6. What natural disaster is most closely associated with the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the central United States?**

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

**7. The formation of the Pacific Ring of Fire, active with volcanoes and earthquakes, directly impacts which western edge of North America?**

- A) Atlantic Coast
- B) Gulf Coast
- C) Pacific Coast**
- D) Arctic Coast

**8. What is the primary mineral resource extracted from the vast bauxite deposits found in Arkansas, USA?**

- A) Copper
- B) Aluminum**
- C) Iron
- D) Gold

**9. The fertile soils of the North American Midwest are largely a result of deposition from which ancient geological force?**

- A) Wind erosion
- B) River flooding
- C) Glacial till**
- D) Volcanic ash

**10. Which U.S. state is home to the Yellowstone Caldera, one of the world's largest active supervolcanoes?**

- A) California
- B) Montana
- C) Wyoming**
- D) Idaho

**11. The unique geological formation known as the Badlands in South Dakota is primarily composed of what type of rock?**

- A) Granite
- B) Sandstone and shale**
- C) Limestone
- D) Basalt

**12. What is the term for the process where landmasses on Earth's surface move and interact, a key factor in North American geology?**

- A) Continental drift**
- B) Erosion
- C) Sedimentation
- D) Metamorphism

**13. The majority of the oil and natural gas reserves in North America are found in which type of geological formation?**

- A) Volcanic rock layers
- B) Metamorphic rock formations
- C) Sedimentary basins**
- D) Glacial deposits

**14. Which large body of water on the eastern seaboard of North America is known for its strong tidal currents and rich marine life?**

- A) Gulf of Mexico
- B) Hudson Bay
- C) Bay of Fundy**
- D) Great Slave Lake

**15. The formation of fjords, deep, narrow inlets carved by glaciers, is a prominent geological feature in which North American region?**

- A) Florida
- B) Alaska**
- C) Texas
- D) Arizona

**16. What is the primary cause of the formation of stalactites and stalagmites in caves like Carlsbad Caverns?**

- A) Volcanic activity
- B) Wind erosion
- C) Deposition of minerals from dripping water**
- D) Glacial meltwater

**17. The vast underground aquifers, such as the Ogallala Aquifer, are crucial for water supply in which region of North America?**

- A) Northeastern United States
- B) Pacific Northwest
- C) Great Plains**
- D) Southeastern Canada

**18. What type of sedimentary rock is most commonly found in the vast sedimentary basins of the Alberta Prairies, holding significant fossil fuel reserves?**

A) Limestone

**B) Sandstone and shale**

C) Marble

D) Slate

**19. The highest peak in North America, Denali, is located within which major mountain range?**

A) Rocky Mountains

B) Brooks Range

**C) Alaska Range**

D) Sierra Nevada

**20. The formation of the Great Plains of North America is largely attributed to the erosion and deposition of sediments from which major mountain range?**

A) Appalachian Mountains

**B) Rocky Mountains**

C) Sierra Nevada

D) Cascade Range