

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Mid-Unit Content Assessment

1. The study of the makeup of the earth and the processes that change and shape it is called _____.
 - A. archaeology
 - B. geology
 - C. ecology
 - D. geography

2. Which statement best explains the theory of plate tectonics?
 - A. Earth's tectonic plates have been slowly moving and interacting for billions of years.
 - B. Earth's tectonic plates are far apart and are fixed in place.
 - C. Earth's tectonic plates are far apart but are slowly moving closer to one another.
 - D. Earth's tectonic plates fit tightly together and are fixed in place.

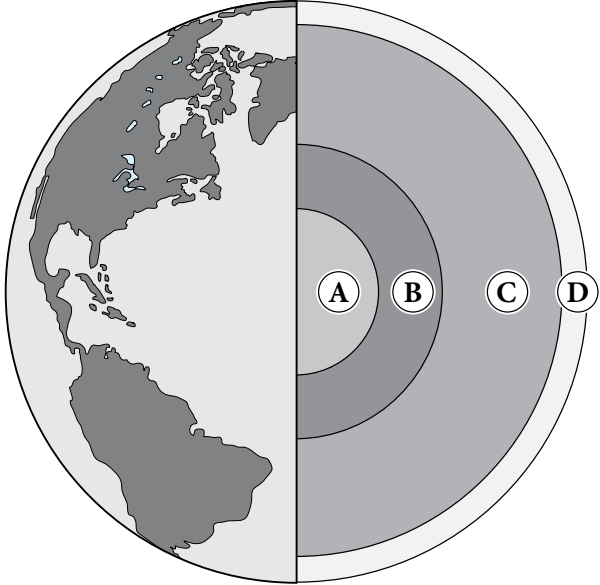
Answer _____

3. Which of the following is the most accurate statement about myths?
 - A. Myths are told to teach important life lessons.
 - B. Myths help explain unpredictable natural events.
 - C. Myths are told to make children laugh.
 - D. Myths are historically accurate accounts of past events.

Answer _____

This question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

4. **Part A:** Place the following labels on the diagram in the appropriate locations: *inner core*, *outer core*, *mantle*, and *crust*.

	A.
	B.
	C.
	D.

Part B: Type the name of each of Earth's layers next to its characteristics in the following chart.

inner core	outer core	mantle	crust
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Earth's Layer	Characteristics
	Earth's largest and thickest layer; consists of very hot, very dense rock
	solid; made of very hot metal; may be nearly as hot as the sun's surface; innermost layer
	thin; rocky; outermost layer; two types: oceanic and continental
	liquid; made of very hot metal

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5. Type Yes next to each item in the chart that is a characteristic of tsunamis.

Characteristics of Tsunamis	Yes or No?
Tsunamis form when earthquakes occur in oceanic crust, causing the seafloor to shift.	
Tsunamis travel fast—as much as 500 miles per hour.	
Tsunamis are easy to stop as long as scientists have enough warning when they begin to form.	
Tsunamis can grow to become as tall as a three- or four-story building.	

6. Read the statement in the “What is the cause?” column. Choose the statement that best relates to the information in the “What is the cause?” column and type the letter of the statement in the “What evidence is there?” column.

What is the cause?	What evidence is there?
Tremendous pressure and heat in the mantle force magma in a chamber below Earth’s crust to move upward through a crack in Earth’s surface.	

- A. A fault-block mountain forms.
- B. Glaciers deposit sediments on Earth’s surface.
- C. Magma erupts from a volcano’s top onto Earth’s surface as lava.
- D. A tectonic plate subducts beneath another plate.

7. Volcano myths often explain volcanic activity by _____.

- A. describing how gods and goddesses cause volcano-related occurrences
- B. providing scientific evidence showing how volcano-related events occur
- C. telling how occurrences above Earth’s surface cause volcanic activity
- D. telling how occurrences below Earth’s surface cause volcanic activity

Answer _____

8. Label each of the following volcano descriptions with the appropriate word: *active*, *dormant*, or *extinct*.
- A. _____ a volcano that has not erupted for at least 10,000 years and is not likely to erupt again
 - B. _____ a volcano that has erupted in the past 10,000 years and is likely to erupt again
 - C. _____ a volcano that hasn't erupted for a long time but could erupt again
9. Which of the statements best explains the relationship between earthquakes and faults?
- A. Earthquakes cause faults to form along plate boundaries.
 - B. Faults are cracks in Earth's crust that form when earthquakes occur.
 - C. *Faults* and *earthquakes* are two words to describe the same geological process.
 - D. Earthquakes begin with huge blocks of rock moving along faults.
- Answer _____
10. Type Yes next to each item in the chart that Alfred Wegener's continental drift hypothesis helped explain.

Continental drift hypothesis explained that...	Yes or No?
long ago, Earth had one huge landmass called Pangaea	
as continents moved apart, their climates changed	
drifting continents actually moved due to tectonic plates	
groups of plants and animals that once lived together were separated as the continents moved apart	

11. Read the statement in the “What is the cause?” column. Choose the statement that best relates to the information in the “What is the cause?” column and type the letter of the statement in the “What evidence is there?” column.

What is the cause?	What evidence is there?
Water drains down into openings in the ground above a magma chamber. Heat from the magma turns the water scalding hot. As the hot water rises back up through the openings below Earth’s surface, it turns into steam, which increases the pressure, forcing the mixture of steam and hot water rushing and bubbling upward.	

- A. A tsunami forms and grows as it moves toward land.
- B. A geyser explodes above Earth’s surface as a hissing fountain of hot water and steam.
- C. An igneous rock breaks down into sediments, later forming sedimentary rock.
- D. A crater forms at the top of a volcano.
12. Which of the following word pairs completes the statements?

Seafloor spreading is the process of oceanic plates moving apart very slowly. When the seafloor dips down as one tectonic plate slides under another, a narrow, extremely deep valley called a(n) _____ is created.

When oceanic plates move away from one another and form cracks in Earth’s crust, an underwater mountain called a(n) _____ is created.

- A. geyser; hotspot
- B. hotspot; geyser
- C. ocean trench; mid-ocean ridge
- D. mid-ocean ridge; ocean trench

13. Moving apart, colliding, and sliding sideways past one another are three ways in which _____ move.

- A. continents
- B. tectonic plates
- C. faults
- D. mid-ocean ridges

Answer _____

14. Label the following statements with the appropriate term related to how scientists measure earthquake intensity: *seismograph* or *Richter scale*.

- A. _____ Numbers describe the intensity of earthquakes based on the largest seismic wave recorded.
- B. _____ Jagged up-and-down lines show the energy of seismic waves.

15. Scientists observed that _____, which provided evidence of changes over time on Earth's surface.

- A. land never moved or changed
- B. the same types of rocks and fossils were found in different places
- C. the climate of Antarctica was extremely cold
- D. animals that once lived on land later lived under water

Answer _____

16. Which of the following do geysers, volcanoes, and hot springs have in common?

- A. They form along faults.
- B. Scientists know when they will erupt.
- C. They form both along plate boundaries and above hotspots.
- D. They only form along plate boundaries.

Answer _____

_____/16 points