World Geography Unit 1 Study Guide - Answers

Vocabulary Terms to Know:

1. absolute location – **exact place on earth where a geographic feature is found.**

2. equator - **0° line of latitude that divides the earth's northern & southern halves.**

3. longitude – **imaginary lines that run east and west around the globe and measure distance north or south of the Equator.**

4. latitude - **imaginary lines that run from pole to pole around the globe and measure distance east or west from the Prime Meridian.**

5. relative location – **a location in relation to other places around it.**

6. prime meridian - **0° line of longitude that divides the earth into eastern and western halves.**

7. hemisphere – **each half of the globe**

8. globe – **a 3-dimensional representation of the earth**

9. GOES – **Geostationary Operational Environment Satellite is a weather satellite**

10. topographic map – **representation of natural and man-made features on earth**

11. geography – **study of the distribution and interaction of earth's physical and human features**

12. biome – **a regional ecosystem**

13. savanna – **flat, grassy, mostly, treeless plains**

14. tsunami – **an underwater earthquake**

15. equinox – **times of the year (spring & fall) when you have equal hours of day and night**

16. coniferous – **needleleaf trees**

17. canopy – **area at the top of trees in a rain forest**

18. compass rose – **shows cardinal, intermediate, and secondary directions**

19. peninsula – **a landform that is surrounded by water on 3 sides**

20. archipelago – **set of closely grouped islands**
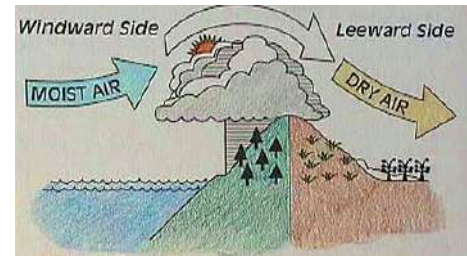
Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

21. What do geographers do to divide places on Earth on the basis of physical features? (7)
    - **They group places into regions**

22. Landforms and bodies of water appear on what type of map? (20)
    - **physical map**

23. Why do geographers break down the 6 major climate zones *(tropical, dry, mild, continental, polar, mountain)* into 13 smaller zones? (60 – 63)
    - **It's not possible to accurately describe all the places within the 6 major climate zones**
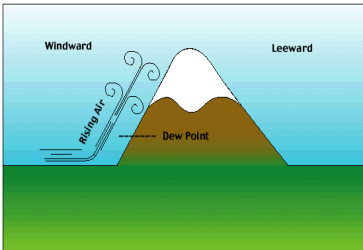
24. What are the 4 major factors that influence climate? (54)
    1.) Height above or below sea level
    2.) Distance north or south of the equator
    3.) Amount of rainfall & other precipitation
    4.) Average daily temperature

25. Capital cities would most often be shown on what type of map? (21)
    - Political map

26. What are the 2 most significant factors in defining different climates? (59)
    - Temperature & Precipitation

27. What characteristic categorizes a region as being a desert climate zone? (62)
    - Average yearly rainfall is less than 10 inches

28. What is geography? (5)
    - study of the distribution and interaction of earth's physical and human features

29. A location of 0˚ latitude would mean the area is located on the _____. (map skills)
    - equator

30. What are the classifications of Earth's biomes? (65)
    - forest, grasslands, desert, tundra

31. What are the characteristics of tropical savannas? (66)
    - flat, grassy, treeless plains in warm climate

32. How are landforms measured? (notes)
    - By their elevation or height above sea level

33. Physical geography differs from cultural geography because it focuses on ____. (notes)
    - the natural environment of the planet

34. How do you express absolute measurement of a location? (6)
    - latitude & longitude

35. What does it mean when an area is classified as a perceptual region? (8)
    - How you perceive a region to be. For example, The South is considered a perceptual region of the United States by:
    - **Climate**
    - **Being historically bound by the confederacy**
    - **Being over 50% Baptist**

36. What is the measurement of the International Date Line? (357)
    - 180˚ longitude

37. What are the characteristics of a functional region? (8)
    - organized around a set of connections between places.

38. Which imaginary lines on the earth's surface converge at the poles? (6)
    - Lines of longitude

39. Which lines run parallel to the equator? (6)
    - Lines of latitude

40. What is a rain shadow?
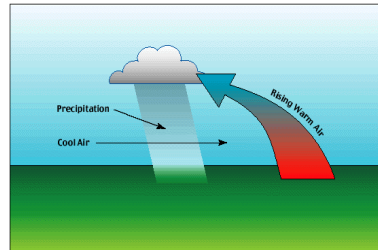   - **land on the leeward side that gets little rain from the descending dry air.**

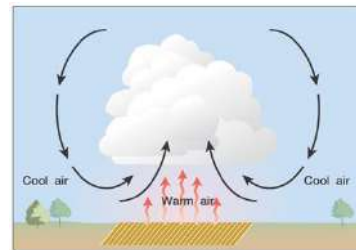41. What are the 3 types of precipitation formations?

Orographic
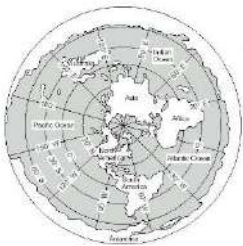**Mountains block the passage of air and cause it to rise**

Frontal
Cold, dense air pushes up warm, light air

Convectional
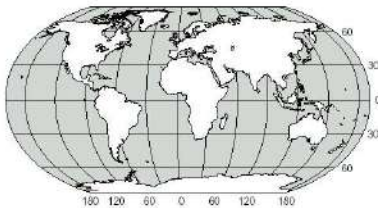**Sun heats the air, warm air rises**

42. Know the following types of map projections: *Polar, Robinson, Interrupted, and Mercator.*
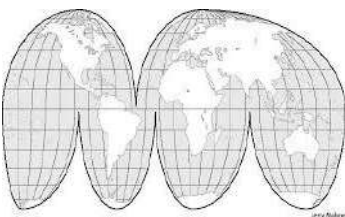

Planar Projection - also called an **azimuthal** projection. A projection on a flat surface that distorts size and shape.

Robinson Projection – a type of compromise projection that shows the entire earth with nearly the true sizes and shapes of the continents and oceans, however the shapes of the landforms near the poles appear flat.

Mercator Projection – a type of compromise projection where the shapes of the continents are distorted at the poles and somewhat compressed near the equator

Homolosine Projection – also called an *Interrupted Map* because the oceans are divided. A type of compromise projection that shows the accurate shapes and sizes of the landmasses, but distances on the map are not correct.

43. Be able to describe the world's climate zones.

Types of Climates
- **Tropical Wet** – always hot; rainfall daily
- **Tropical Wet & Dry** – rainy, warm summers; dry, cool winters
- **Semiarid** – hot summers; mild to cold winters; not much rain
- **Desert** – less than 10 in. rain per year; temp. drop at night
- **Mediterranean** – dry, hot summers; cool, rainy winters
- **Marine West Coast** – cloudy, foggy, damp; even distribution of precipitation throughout the year
- **Humid Subtropical** – long periods of summer heat & humidity; mild to cool winters
- **Humid Continental** – variety in temp. & precipitation; 4 seasons; changing weather conditions
- **Subarctic** – huge temp. variations between summer & winter; short, cool summers; long, very cold winters
- **Tundra** – very little precipitation; (permafrost) subsoil always frozen; very short, cool summers;
- **Ice Ca**p – Snow, ice, and permanently freezing temps; less than 10 in. precipitation per year.
- **Highlands** – climate varies w/ latitude, elevation, topography, continental location