

Test Review Answers - Weathering, Erosion and Natural Disasters

1. The process of breaking down rock into small fragments is called weathering.
2. The five types of mechanical weathering are: (1) pressure release, (2) ice wedging (freeze-thaw), (3) plant growth (root wedging), (4) abrasion, and (5) animal actions (burrowing).
3. The five agents of chemical weathering are: (1) water, (2) oxygen, (3) carbon dioxide, (4) living organisms, and (5) acid rain.
4. The type of weathering that creates caves in limestone is chemical weathering (carbon dioxide).
5. The process by which natural forces move weathered rock and soil from one place to another is called: erosion.
6. The four agents of erosion are: (1) water, (2) wind, (3) ice (glaciers), and (4) gravity.
7. The strongest agent of erosion is: water.
8. The agent of erosion primarily responsible for carving the Grand Canyon is: water.
9. The agent of erosion primarily responsible for carving Yosemite Valley is: ice (glaciers).
10. The four sizes of weathered rock particles, from smallest to largest, are: (1) clay, (2) silt, (3) sand and (4) gravel.
11. Rock weathering and soil formation occur fastest in a hot and wet climate.
12. Decayed organic matter in soil is called: humus.
13. The layer of dead leaves lying on the surface of the soil is called: litter.
14. The mass of roots, grass and other small plants that hold prairie soil together and prevents erosion is called: sod.
15. An ideal mix of soil ingredients that best supports plant growth is called: loam.
16. The distinct layers found in soil are called soil horizons. The top soil layer is the A horizon, also called topsoil. The middle layer is the B horizon, also called subsoil. The lower layer is the C horizon, also called weathered rock.
17. The farming practice that leaves existing plant stalks and weeds in place after the harvest without plowing until the next crop is planted is called: conservation plowing.
18. The farming practice in which fields are plowed in a pattern prevents water from easily running downhill and causing soil erosion is called contour plowing.
19. The grinding away of rock by rock particles carried in wind or water is called: abrasion.
20. Weathered rock and soil that is moved from one location to another by natural processes is called: sediment.
21. The process by which sediment is laid down in a new location is called: deposition.
22. Landslides, mudflows, slump and creep are examples of: mass movement (or “mass wasting”).
23. The very slow movement of soil down a hill, causing trees to grow in crescent shapes and poles to lean, is called: creep.
24. The fast movement of water, soil and rock down a slope or river valley, caused either by heavy rains or a volcanic eruption, is called a: mudflow (or lahar when of volcanic origin).