



Earth's Changing Surface

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 4

Part A: Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

1. Building a new dirt road on a steep hill most likely causes

- A) more soil erosion when it rains
- B) fewer earthquakes
- C) the rocks below to harden
- D) rivers to disappear

2. Planting trees along a bare hillside helps protect the land because roots

- A) make the soil heavier than water
- B) stop earthquakes from happening
- C) hold soil in place and slow runoff
- D) create more wind erosion

3. A jetty is a long stone wall built into the ocean to

- A) speed up beach erosion
- B) block wave erosion and protect the beach
- C) cause volcanoes
- D) make new fossils

4. In earthquake zones, engineers design buildings that can

- A) float on water
- B) sway and bend without breaking
- C) stop tectonic plates from moving
- D) turn into volcanoes

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer on each line.

1. Cutting down forests for farms often increases soil _____ on hillsides.
2. Sea walls and _____ are structures engineers use to protect coasts from waves.
3. Adding plants whose roots hold soil is one way humans can prevent _____.
4. Buildings in California are designed to be flexible because of _____.
5. Studying past floods and quakes helps engineers _____ for future hazards.

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