



Earth's Layers

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 5

Part A: Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

1. Scientists find identical fossils on continents separated by wide oceans. What does this evidence most strongly support?

- A) The fossils were carried across the ocean by strong currents.
- B) The continents were once joined together and later moved apart on tectonic plates.
- C) Animals swam between the continents long ago.
- D) Volcanic eruptions launched the fossils to distant continents.

2. At a divergent plate boundary on the ocean floor, scientists find that rocks closest to the ridge are the youngest. Why?

- A) Older rocks sink into the mantle because they are heavier.
- B) Ocean currents push the older rocks farther from the ridge.
- C) New crust is constantly being created at the ridge as magma rises and cools.
- D) Younger rocks float on top of older rocks during underwater eruptions.

3. Why is the lithosphere described as rigid while the asthenosphere beneath it is described as flowing?

- A) The lithosphere is made of metal while the asthenosphere is made of gas.
- B) The lithosphere is cooler and more brittle, while the asthenosphere is hot enough that rock moves like thick plastic.
- C) The lithosphere has no pressure on it, so it stays hard and stiff.
- D) The asthenosphere contains water that keeps the rock soft and wet.

4. The Mariana Trench is the deepest point in the ocean. Which process most likely formed it?

- A) A transform boundary caused the seafloor to crack open.
- B) An earthquake split the crust into a deep canyon.
- C) An oceanic plate subducted beneath another plate, pulling the seafloor down.
- D) Volcanic lava built walls on either side, leaving a gap in between.

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer on each line.

1. Alfred Wegener proposed that all continents were once joined in a supercontinent called _____.

2. Matching rock formations and _____ on different continents provide evidence that they were

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Part B: Fill in the Blank

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1. Alfred Wegener proposed that all continents were once joined in a supercontinent called Pangaea.
2. Matching rock formations and **fossils** on different continents provide evidence that they were