

Study Guide Questions

NATURAL LANDSCAPES OF NORTH AMERICA

1. What countries make up the world region known as "North America"?
2. _____ images depict the green colors of vegetation in red and pink tones.
3. Name three of the eight major physiographic regions.
4. " _____ " is a term used to describe the distance between the highest and lowest points in a landscape.
5. Barrier islands are separated from the mainland by a shallow _____ .
6. The Great _____ make up the Appalachian's widest point.
7. The Bay of _____'s erratic tides carve the shore into fantastic shapes.
8. The _____ Shield consists of many Precambrian rocks.
9. The Platte River forms a(n) _____ pattern as waters flow around islands of sediment.
10. The _____ consist of loosely consolidated soils, eroded into dramatic formations.
11. The _____ Mountains were uplifted, and sedimentary strata tilted up, to create a jumbled landscape.

12. List three glacially-carved features.
13. List four landforms intrinsic to the Intermontane Region.
14. What are "playas"?
15. What volcano of the northwest erupted in 1980?
16. extends from the Cape Cod peninsula to the tip of South Texas and is composed of low coastal plains; pines and swamps predominate
17. dry land with natural vegetation, ranging from desert in the south to grasslands and drought-tolerant forests farther north
18. Mountains here are old and heavily eroded, with few summits above 6000 feet.
19. an area of low relief, consisting of short-grass steppes and erosional remnants and escarpments
20. Some of this northwestern region's high mountains are volcanic.
21. Pleistocene glaciers gave areas of this region a characteristically Alpine landscape.
22. This region is often called the "bread basket" of America.
23. Thousands of lakes in this region were formed by continental glaciers.

Study Guide Answers

1. What we refer to as "climate" is actually a generalization about average weather conditions over time. True or false?

true

2. Three of the main variables used to classify climates are: a.) temperature, precipitation, and the pattern of human settlement b.) temperature, the distribution of animal life, and natural vegetation c.) temperature, precipitation, and distribution of natural vegetation d.) none of the above

c

3. By systematically describing the distribution of world climates, we can improve a.) our understanding of the variations of life on earth b.) our planning for future use of resources c.) both a and b d.) neither a or b

c

4. Match the basic description of the major climate zones with the corresponding letter in the Köppen system

A-2, B-4, C-1, D-5, E-3

5. "H" has been added to Köppen's system to describe a _____ climatic type.

highland

6. A monsoon is: a.) a type of thunderstorm b.) an Arabic word for rain c.) a seasonal wind shift that brings alternate d.) any unusually heavy rain wet and dry weather

c

7. Desert conditions prevail when amounts of precipitation are low, and rates of evaporation are high. True or false?

true

8. The Mediterranean climate type is found only along the shores of southern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. True or false?

false

9. Severe mid-latitude climates are associated with large, _____ land masses.

continental

10. Large bodies of water tend to moderate the climates of adjacent lands. True or false?

true

11. Severe mid-latitude climates have a wide range of temperature fluctuations and very distinct seasonal changes. True or false?

true

12. Because of low _____ rates, much of the sub-arctic landscape is waterlogged.

evaporation

13. Polar climates have high precipitation rates. True or false?

false

14. "Tundra" refers to a type of: a.) soil b.) glacier c.) vegetation d.) storm

c

15. Variations in highland climates are a function of _____.

altitude