

**EARTH SCIENCE VOCABULARY REVIEW**

- \_\_\_ texture 1 ) A closed curve formed around two fixed points such that the total distance from any point on the curve to both fixed points is constant
- \_\_\_ ores 2 ) A rolling landscape or elevated, comparatively flat region with modest topographic relief (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ ecology 3 ) The surface characteristics of a rock that are the result of size, shape, and arrangement of mineral grains (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ logarithmic 4 ) High banks along a river of natural or human origin
- \_\_\_ hydrosphere 5 ) The branch of science that is concerned with the relationships among organisms and their environment
- \_\_\_ levees 6 ) Earth's liquid water, including oceans, surface water, and groundwater
- \_\_\_ striations 7 ) A low ridge of sand deposited along the shore by currents
- \_\_\_ ellipse 8 ) Rocks that are mined to obtain a substance they contain of economic value
- \_\_\_ infiltration 9 ) A material that is solid under short-term stress, but flows like a liquid when stress is applied over a long period of time
- \_\_\_ sandbar 10 ) An imaginary line that circles Earth halfway between the North and South Poles (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ equator 11 ) The movement of magma to a new position within Earth's crust. A body of rock that was injected into surrounding rock as magma
- \_\_\_ plastic 12 ) A scale in which an increase of one unit translates to a 10-fold increase in the quantity measured.
- \_\_\_ till 13 ) Unsorted sediments deposited by a glacier
- \_\_\_ plateau 14 ) The process in which water soaks into the ground
- \_\_\_ intrusion 15 ) Parallel scratches in bedrock that were made by rocks transported by glaciers

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- \_\_\_ watershed                    1 ) A mixture of fog and air pollution particles, especially smoke from the burning of fossil fuels
- \_\_\_ comet                        2 ) Solar energy that reaches Earth (incoming solar radiation)
- \_\_\_ tectonics                    3 ) Anything that is used to represent something else
- \_\_\_ tributary                    4 ) Large-scale motions of Earth's crust that are responsible for uplift and mountain building (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ front                        5 ) A small closed basin formed in a moraine
- \_\_\_ insolation                   6 ) The geographic area drained by a particular river or stream; drainage basin
- \_\_\_ smog                         7 ) The gradual change in living organisms from generation to generation, over a long period of time
- \_\_\_ evolution                   8 ) The transfer of energy in the form of electromagnetic waves
- \_\_\_ transpiration               9 ) A hill or ridge of wind-blown sand
- \_\_\_ model                        10 ) A boundary, or interface, between air masses (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ radiation                    11 ) An object made of ice and rock fragments that revolves around the sun usually in a highly eccentric orbit; it may be visible periodically in the night sky as a small spot of light with a long tail
- \_\_\_ faults                        12 ) A stream that flows into a larger stream
- \_\_\_ convection                 13 ) The process by which plants release water vapor to the atmosphere, largely through pores in their leaves
- \_\_\_ dune                         14 ) A form of heat flow that moves matter and energy as density currents under the influence of gravity (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ kettle                        15 ) Cracks in Earth's crust along which movement occurs

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|------------------|---|
| ___ isotopes     | 1 ) A sudden movement of Earth's crust that releases energy (ESRT)  |
| ___ luminosity   | 2 ) A cross section, or side view of an object  |
| ___ eccentricity | 3 ) Isolines that connect locations with the same atmospheric pressure on a weather map                     |
| ___ weather      | 4 ) A universal method of gathering, organizing, and using information about the environment                |
| ___ conduction   | 5 ) The movement of heat that occurs as heated molecules pass their vibrational energy to nearby molecules. |
| ___ isobars      | 6 ) The total energy output of a star; absolute brightness (ESRT)   |
| ___ vent         | 7 ) Atoms of the same element that contain different numbers of neutrons in their nucleus (ESRT)            |
| ___ profile      | 8 ) The solid rock that covers Earth (ESRT)   |
| ___ earthquake   | 9 ) The study of the rock portion of Earth, its interior, and surface processes                             |
| ___ geology      | 10 ) The amount of water flowing past a particular place in a specified time                                |
| ___ lithosphere  | 11 ) A buried erosion surface that represents a gap in the record of Earth's history                        |
| ___ gradient     | 12 ) A measure of the elongation of an ellipse (ESRT)   |
| ___ unconformity | 13 ) The change in field value per unit distance (ESRT)   |
| ___ discharge    | 14 ) The short-term conditions of Earth's atmosphere at a given time and place (ESRT)                       |
| ___ science      | 15 ) A place where lava comes to the surface  |

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| ___ sediment       | 1 ) Liquid water that forms by condensation on cold surfaces  |
| ___ conservation   | 2 ) The way minerals break along curved surfaces (ESRT)   |
| ___ banding        | 3 ) The study of fossils  |
| ___ outcrop        | 4 ) The place on Earth's surface directly above an earthquake's focus (ESRT)  |
| ___ volcano        | 5 ) The loose material created by the weathering of rock (ESRT)   |
| ___ isoline        | 6 ) The careful use, protection, and restoration of our natural resources   |
| ___ dew            | 7 ) Describes sedimentary rocks that are composed of the weathered remains of other rocks; clastic (ESRT)               |
| ___ epicenter      | 8 ) A line on a field map that connects places having the same temperature  |
| ___ fracture       | 9 ) A place where bedrock is exposed at Earth's surface   |
| ___ paleontology   | 10 ) The organization of objects, ideas, or information according to their properties                                   |
| ___ field          | 11 ) The light- and dark-colored bands of mineral that form parallel to foliation in metamorphic rocks (ESRT)           |
| ___ classification | 12 ) The ability of soil or sediment to allow water to flow through it  |
| ___ fragmental     | 13 ) A line on a field map that connects places having the same field quantity value                                    |
| ___ permeability   | 14 ) A region in which a force, temperature, land elevation, or another quantity can be measured at any location (ESRT) |
| ___ isotherm       | 15 ) An opening in Earth's surface through which molten magma (lava) erupts   |

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| ___ hazard        | 1 ) The color of the powdered form of a mineral (ESRT)   |
| ___ plutonic      | 2 ) Ice crystals that form when water vapor comes in contact with surfaces whose temperature is below 0°C  |
| ___ streak        | 3 ) A method or device that uses reflected radio waves to locate or map distant objects or weather events; an acronym from radio detection and ranging         |
| ___ spring        | 4 ) An irregularly shaped rocky mass that is smaller than a planet and occupies an orbit around the sun; most are found between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter |
| ___ moho          | 5 ) The upper part of the mantle, capable of slow deformation and flow under heat and pressure (ESRT)  |
| ___ origin        | 6 ) A place where groundwater flows onto the surface of the ground   |
| ___ fluid         | 7 ) The way light is reflected and/or absorbed by the surface of a mineral (ESRT)  |
| ___ asthenosphere | 8 ) Describes igneous rocks that form deep underground (ESRT)  |
| ___ groundwater   | 9 ) The boundary between Earth's crust and mantle (ESRT)   |
| ___ radar         | 10 ) Any substance that can flow, usually a liquid or a gas  |
| ___ oblate        | 11 ) How something was formed  |
| ___ asteroid      | 12 ) Water that enters the ground and occupies free space in soil and sediment as well as openings in bedrock, including cracks, and spaces between grains     |
| ___ freezing      | 13 ) The change in state from liquid to solid  |
| ___ luster        | 14 ) Slightly flattened at the poles   |
| ___ frost         | 15 ) An event that places people in danger of injury, loss of life, or property damage   |

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- \_\_\_ oceanography      1 ) The method by which small particles that settle very slowly are carried by water
- \_\_\_ climate            2 ) A rainstorm that produces thunder, lightning, strong winds and sometimes hail (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ landslide         3 ) A series of waves caused by an earthquake or underwater landslide that can cause damage and loss of lives in coastal locations
- \_\_\_ tsunami          4 ) The point in the sky directly over an observer's head
- \_\_\_ rain                5 ) The basic substances that are the building blocks of matter (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ paradigm         6 ) The transportation of sediments by water, air, glaciers, or by gravity acting alone. (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ galaxy             7 ) The rapid, downslope movement of rock and soil
- \_\_\_ suspension       8 ) The change in state from solid to liquid (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ thunderstorm     9 ) The average weather conditions over a long time, including the range of conditions
- \_\_\_ eclipse            10 ) A coherent set of principles and understandings
- \_\_\_ felsic              11 ) A huge group of stars held together by gravity
- \_\_\_ erosion            12 ) The partial or complete hiding of one celestial object by another. (An \_\_\_\_\_ of the moon occurs when the moon orbits into Earth's shadow. An \_\_\_\_\_ of the sun occurs when the moon's orbit takes it directly between Earth and the sun.)
- \_\_\_ elements         13 ) Liquid precipitation that falls quickly; precipitation droplets larger than drizzle. (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ melting            14 ) The study of the oceans that cover most of Earth
- \_\_\_ zenith             15 ) Describes light-colored minerals rich in aluminum or rocks made of these minerals (ESRT)

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- \_\_\_ scattering 1 ) An instrument, made up of two thermometers mounted side-by-side on a narrow frame, that is used to determine the dew-point temperature and relative humidity; also known as a wet and dry bulb thermometer (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ psychrometer 2 ) A region that has landforms that are related by similarities in shape, climate, and/or geologic setting; the general shape of a large area of the land surface, such as plains, plateau, or mountain (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ drumlins 3 ) Streamlined hills of glacial origin aligned north-to-south that have steep sides, a blunt north slope, and a gentle slope to the south; made of till
- \_\_\_ landscape 4 ) Force that tends to distort rock, resulting in slow bending
- \_\_\_ precipitation 5 ) A measure of the average kinetic energy of the molecules in a substance (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ redshift 6 ) The angular distance east or west of the prime meridian (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ deforestation 7 ) The method by which particles that are too large to be carried in solution or by suspension float on water
- \_\_\_ flotation 8 ) The reflection of light in many different directions
- \_\_\_ volcanic 9 ) The change in state from liquid to gas (vapor) at the boiling point
- \_\_\_ boiling 10 ) Relatively flat landscapes, commonly at low elevation and usually underlain by flat-lying sedimentary rocks; the range of elevation is small (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ plains 11 ) (1) The settling of solids from solution, often the result of the evaporation of seawater (ESRT). (2) Water that falls to Earth as rain, snow, sleet, or hail (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ longitude 12 ) Fine-grained, extrusive igneous rocks (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ lightning 13 ) Sudden electrical discharges within clouds, between clouds, and between clouds and the ground that are seen as flashes of light
- \_\_\_ temperature 14 ) Cutting forests to clear the land for other uses
- \_\_\_ stress 15 ) A displacement of the spectral lines of very distant stars and galaxies, an increase in the wavelength of starlight caused by rapid relative motion of the star away from the observer.

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| ___ thermometer | 1 ) A large storm of tropical origin that has sustained winds in excess of 74 miles (120 kilometers) per hour (ESRT)                      |
| ___ abrasion    | 2 ) A mass of till deposited by a glacier   |
| ___ refraction  | 3 ) The direction of a magnetic field determined with an instrument such as a magnetic compass  |
| ___ troposphere | 4 ) A conclusion based on observations  |
| ___ caldera     | 5 ) Large rocks transported from one area to another by glaciers  |
| ___ cleavage    | 6 ) Sorted sediments deposited by water from a melting glacier  |
| ___ inference   | 7 ) Sedimentary rocks that are composed of the weathered remains of other rocks; fragmental (ESRT)  |
| ___ outwash     | 8 ) Scientists who study the origin, history, and structure of Earth and how it changes   |
| ___ polarity    | 9 ) The tendency of some minerals to break along smooth, flat surfaces (ESRT)   |
| ___ clastic     | 10 ) The bending of light and other energy waves as they enter a substance of different density   |
| ___ tides       | 11 ) The grinding away of rock by friction with other rocks   |
| ___ moraine     | 12 ) An instrument used to measure temperature  |
| ___ erratics    | 13 ) The twice- (or once-) daily cycle of change in sea level caused by the gravitational influence of the moon and sun on Earth's oceans |
| ___ geologists  | 14 ) The lowest layer of Earth's atmosphere, in which temperature decreases with increasing altitude (ESRT)                               |
| ___ hurricane   | 15 ) A large, bowl-shaped depression formed when the top of a volcano collapses into the emptied magma chamber                            |

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- \_\_\_ soil 1 ) The water from precipitation that flows downhill under the influence of gravity until it reaches a stream, or seeps into the ground; runoff may also include stream flow; overland flow
- \_\_\_ mafic 2 ) (1) A region of relatively low atmospheric pressure; (2) term applied to hurricanes in the Indian Ocean; (3) synonym for tornado
- \_\_\_ calorie 3 ) A measure of how many waves pass a given point in a given period of time
- \_\_\_ frequency 4 ) The process by which a substance changes from a liquid to a gas
- \_\_\_ magma 5 ) The layer of Earth's atmosphere directly above the troposphere, in which the temperature increases with increasing altitude (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ bedrock 6 ) The energy absorbed when the temperature of 1 gram of water increases 1 Celsius degree (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ velocity 7 ) Describes dark-colored minerals rich in magnesium (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ deposition 8 ) A curve that develops in the path of a river when the river flows over relatively flat land
- \_\_\_ grooves 9 ) Hot, liquid rock within Earth (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ meander 10 ) Speed; change in distance divided by change in time; sometimes velocity is used to include both speed and direction.
- \_\_\_ stratosphere 11 ) Furrows of glacial origin in bedrock that are deeper and wider than striations
- \_\_\_ runoff 12 ) Describes atoms that breakdown spontaneously, releasing energy and/or subatomic particles to become different elements
- \_\_\_ evaporation 13 ) The settling, or release, of sediments that have been carried by an agent of erosion (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ radioactive 14 ) The solid, or continuous, rock that extends into Earth's interior
- \_\_\_ cyclone 15 ) A mixture of weathered rock and the remains of living organisms in which plants can grow

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| ___ azimuth           | 1 ) The act of moving apart   |
| ___ gravity           | 2 ) A group of organisms so similar that they can breed to produce fertile offspring  |
| ___ evaporation       | 3 ) The concept that the geological processes that took place in the past are similar to those that occur now   |
| ___ phase             | 4 ) The resistance of a mineral to being scratched (ESRT)   |
| ___ species           | 5 ) An imaginary line that passes through Earth's North and South Poles   |
| ___ meteor            | 6 ) The change in state from liquid to gas when the temperature is below the boiling point  |
| ___ divergence        | 7 ) The observed shape of the lighted portion of a celestial object, for example, the moon or Venus   |
| ___ hardness          | 8 ) The mass of solid and molten rock that extends more than 6000 kilometers from Earth's solid surface to its center   |
| ___ uniformitarianism | 9 ) Scientists who study earthquakes  |
| ___ relief            | 10 ) The force of attraction between objects  |
| ___ urbanization      | 11 ) The difference in elevation from the highest point to the lowest point on the land surface in a specific region  |
| ___ axis              | 12 ) The compass direction specified as an angle. It starts at 0° at due North and progresses through East (90°), South (180°), West (270°), and back to North (360°, or 0°). |
| ___ mesosphere        | 13 ) A streak of light produced as a meteoroid burns due to friction with Earth's atmosphere  |
| ___ geosphere         | 14 ) The layer of Earth's atmosphere directly above the stratosphere, in which temperature decreases with increasing altitude (ESRT)  |
| ___ seismologists     | 15 ) The development of heavily populated areas   |

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- \_\_\_ astronomy            1 ) An unstable isotope that breaks down spontaneously at a predictable rate
- \_\_\_ sleet                2 ) The tendency of an object at rest to remain at rest or an object in motion to move at a constant speed in a straight line unless acted on by an unbalanced force
- \_\_\_ stream              3 ) A record of prehistoric life preserved in rock (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ crater              4 ) An instrument used to measure atmospheric humidity
- \_\_\_ inertia             5 ) A bowl-shaped depression at the top of a volcano caused by an explosive eruption or the impact of an object from space.
- \_\_\_ vaporization      6 ) The change in state from liquid to gas (vapor) at any temperature (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ radioisotope      7 ) An instrument that measures the magnitude of earthquakes
- \_\_\_ foliation            8 ) The alignment of mineral crystals, caused by metamorphism (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ blizzard            9 ) A winter snowstorm that produces heavy snow and winds of 35 miles per hour (56 kilometers per hour) or greater
- \_\_\_ atmosphere        10 ) An underground zone of porous material that contains useful quantities of groundwater
- \_\_\_ fossils              11 ) Flowing water, such as a brook, river, or even an ocean current
- \_\_\_ seismograph      12 ) The layer of gases that surrounds a celestial body (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ glacier             13 ) A form of precipitation that consists of rain drops that freeze before they reach the ground; also known as ice pellets. Unlike hail, it does not require violent winds aloft (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ hygrometer        14 ) The study of Earth's motions and the objects beyond Earth, such as planets and stars
- \_\_\_ aquifer             15 ) A large mass ice that flows over land due to gravity

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|-------------------|--|
| ___ solution      | 1 ) A steep slope or a cliff of resistant rock that marks the edge of a relatively flat area   |
| ___ seismology    | 2 ) The death of every individual of a particular species (ESRT)   |
| ___ satellite     | 3 ) The angular elevation of an object above the horizon   |
| ___ avalanche     | 4 ) A flat region next to a stream or river that can be covered by water in times of flood   |
| ___ porosity      | 5 ) A state of balance   |
| ___ equilibrium   | 6 ) The water-vapor content of air (ESRT)  |
| ___ humidity      | 7 ) The process in which bubbles of hot gas escape from magma exposed to reduced pressure at Earth's surface                               |
| ___ extinction    | 8 ) The concentration of matter, or the mass per unit volume (ESRT)  |
| ___ outgassing    | 9 ) A science that deals with earthquakes  |
| ___ escarpment    | 10 ) The ability of a material to hold water in open spaces, or pores  |
| ___ fog           | 11 ) An object in space that revolves around another object as a result of gravity   |
| ___ altitude      | 12 ) Very low clouds that reach the ground (ESRT)  |
| ___ floodplain    | 13 ) The concept that, unless rock layers have been moved, each layer is older than the layer above it and younger than the layer below it |
| ___ density       | 14 ) The rapid, downslope movement of snow, similar to a landslide, that occurs on steep slopes  |
| ___ superposition | 15 ) The method by which dissolved solids are carried in water   |

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- \_\_\_ equinox                    1 ) (1) The place where rock begins to separate during an earthquake, usually located underground. (2) Either of the two fixed points that determine the shape of an ellipse (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ weathering                2 ) Information gathered through the use of sight, touch, taste, smell, and hearing
- \_\_\_ extrusion                 3 ) A deposit of sediment built into a large body of water by deposition from a stream
- \_\_\_ focus                      4 ) A feature of a landscape
- \_\_\_ latitude                    5 ) A substance that is or was a natural part of the solid Earth, or lithosphere (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ landform                 6 ) The study of Earth's atmosphere and how it changes
- \_\_\_ observations              7 ) The change in rocks that occurs when they are exposed to conditions at Earth's surface
- \_\_\_ delta                       8 ) A mineral that contains silicon and oxygen
- \_\_\_ hail                         9 ) The angular distance north or south of the equator (ESRT)
- \_\_\_ cloud                      10 ) The process by which light bounces off a surface or material
- \_\_\_ silicate                    11 ) Pellets of ice, which grow larger as they repeatedly become coated with water, and are then blown higher into cold air where the coating of water freezes; eventually the ice pellets become heavy enough to fall to the ground
- \_\_\_ rock                        12 ) A large body of tiny water droplets or ice crystals
- \_\_\_ meteorology               13 ) A region of relatively high atmospheric pressure
- \_\_\_ anticyclone               14 ) One of the two days on which the sun rises due east and sets due west, on which the length of day and night are equal, on which the sun's vertical rays are at the equator; the first day of spring or fall
- \_\_\_ reflection                 15 ) The movement of magma onto Earth's surface (ESRT)

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|-------------------|---|
| ___ inclusion     | 1 ) A scientist who studies the weather   |
| ___ pollution     | 2 ) An instrument used to measure air pressure  |
| ___ capillarity   | 3 ) The tendency of a substance to pull water into tiny spaces, or pores, by adhesion   |
| ___ liquefaction  | 4 ) The highest layer of Earth's atmosphere, located directly above the mesosphere, in which temperature rises with increasing altitude (ESRT)                          |
| ___ sorting       | 5 ) A fragment of one type of rock that is enclosed in another rock   |
| ___ thermosphere  | 6 ) Seasonal changes in the direction of the prevailing winds, causing changes in temperature and rainfall  |
| ___ vesicular     | 7 ) The separation of particles of sediment as a result of differences in their shape, density, or size   |
| ___ correlation   | 8 ) Matching bedrock layers by rock type or by age  |
| ___ lava          | 9 ) The process in which strong shaking allows water to surround the particles of sediment, changing the sediments into a material with the properties of a thick fluid |
| ___ monsoons      | 10 ) Rocks that contain gas pockets, or vesicles (ESRT)   |
| ___ mineral       | 11 ) The act of moving together (ESRT)  |
| ___ convergence   | 12 ) A natural inorganic, crystalline solid that has a specific range of composition and consistent physical properties (ESRT)  |
| ___ meteorologist | 13 ) A sufficient quantity of any material or form of energy in the environment that harms humans or the plants and animals on which they depend                        |
| ___ condensation  | 14 ) The process by which a substance changes from a gas to a liquid (ESRT)   |
| ___ compounds     | 15 ) Melted rock coming from a volcano or such rock that has cooled and hardened  |
| ___ barometer     | 16 ) Substances made up of more than one kind of atom (element) combined into larger units called molecules   |