

Earth Science Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Earth Science trivia explores the planet as an interconnected system, spanning geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy as they relate to Earth. It offers a factual, family-friendly way to revisit foundational ideas such as plate tectonics, the rock cycle, climate patterns, and the processes that have shaped Earth over billions of years.

HARD EARTH SCIENCE TRIVIA

1. Which scientist is most strongly associated with advancing the endosymbiotic theory?

Answer: Lynn Margulis

2. The Gaia hypothesis is linked to which figure in Earth system science?

Answer: James Lovelock

3. Name the discontinuity that separates Earth's crust from the mantle.?

Answer: Mohorovičić discontinuity

4. What is the name of the boundary between the mantle and the outer core?

Answer: Gutenberg discontinuity

5. Which discontinuity marks the division between the outer core and the inner core?

Answer: Lehmann discontinuity

6. Which seismic body waves are blocked by liquids rather than passing through them?

Answer: S-waves

7. Among seismic body waves, which type arrives first because it travels fastest?

Answer: P-waves

8. What is the name of the layer directly beneath the lithosphere that deforms plastically over geologic time?

Answer: asthenosphere

9. Earth's crust together with the uppermost mantle forms what rigid outer shell?

Answer: lithosphere

10. What process in the liquid outer core generates Earth's magnetic field?

Answer: geodynamo

11. True or false: Earth's magnetic north pole has remained fixed in the same position throughout history.?

Answer: False

12. Which line of evidence was especially important in supporting the idea of seafloor spreading?

Answer: paleomagnetism

13. The concept of seafloor spreading is closely associated with which geoscientist?

Answer: Harry Hess

14. What term is used for the symmetric magnetic stripe pattern found on both sides of mid-ocean ridges?

Answer: Vine-Matthews-Morley stripes

FUNNY EARTH SCIENCE TRIVIA

1. What was the name of the giant ancient supercontinent that basically made Earth look like it forgot to separate its puzzle pieces?

Answer: Pangaea

2. If the ocean were holding a deepest-basement contest, which place would win?

Answer: The Mariana Trench

3. In cave decoration terms, what hangs from the ceiling like nature's rocky chandelier?

Answer: A stalactite

4. Which cave formation grows upward from the floor, as if the cave is trying to grow its own stone traffic cone?

Answer: A stalagmite

5. Karst landscapes usually develop where what rock dissolves away over time?

Answer: Limestone

6. When the ground suddenly drops into an underground void, what dramatic feature has formed?

Answer: A sinkhole

7. What do you call the hot-water show-off that erupts because groundwater is heated by hot rock underground?

Answer: A geyser

8. Which famous Yellowstone geyser has a name that sounds like a punctual grandparent?

Answer: Old Faithful

9. What process links igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks in one never-ending geological costume change?

Answer: The rock cycle

10. On the Mohs hardness scale, what number does quartz score? Not bad for a mineral that never stops showing up everywhere.?

Answer: 7

11. Diamond sits at the top of the Mohs hardness scale with what rating?

Answer: 10

12. Which mineral is famous for fizzing in weak acid, as if chemistry just told it a juicy

secret?

Answer: Calcite

13. What common volcanic rock makes up much of the oceanic crust?

Answer: Basalt

FUN EARTH SCIENCE TRIVIA

1. If Earth handed out a sky-high trophy for tallest waterfall, which one would win?

Answer: Angel Falls

2. True or false: The Sahara is Earth's largest hot desert.?

Answer: True

3. Which mountain range stretches the farthest across land?

Answer: The Andes

4. What is Earth's biggest ocean, the true heavyweight of the blue planet?

Answer: The Pacific Ocean

5. If islands had a king-size division, which island would take the crown?

Answer: Greenland

6. Which freshwater lake wins the deep-thought award for being the world's deepest?

Answer: Lake Baikal

7. What major undersea mountain chain runs down the Atlantic like a zipper on the ocean floor?

Answer: The Mid-Atlantic Ridge

8. Which famous fault slices through California?

Answer: The San Andreas Fault

9. The Great Barrier Reef hangs out off the coast of which Australian state?

Answer: Queensland

10. If you want your best chance of seeing auroras, where on Earth should you head?

Answer: Near the polar regions

11. What causes the Coriolis effect: Earth's rotation or the Moon's gravity?

Answer: Earth's rotation

12. When the Sun, Moon, and Earth line up, what kind of tides occur?

Answer: Spring tides

13. What do we call the weaker tidal pattern that happens when the Sun and Moon pull at right angles relative to Earth?

Answer: Neap tides

EARTH SCIENCE FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Who co-developed the Richter magnitude scale used for earthquakes?

Answer: Charles F. Richter

2. Which scientist created the Mercalli intensity scale?

Answer: Giuseppe Mercalli

3. James Hutton is often called the father of what field?

Answer: Modern geology

4. Who wrote the book "Principles of Geology"?

Answer: Charles Lyell

5. What name is given to the orbital climate cycles linked to Milutin Milanković ?

Answer: Milanković cycles

6. The Keeling Curve is associated with which scientist?

Answer: Charles David Keeling

7. At which volcano are the atmospheric carbon dioxide measurements for the Keeling Curve taken?

Answer: Mauna Loa

8. In the ENSO pattern, which phase is the warm one: El Niño or La Niña?

Answer: El Niño

9. Which ENSO phase is the cool phase?

Answer: La Niña

10. Who helped create the Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale?

Answer: Herbert Saffir

11. Which body of water is famous for being one of Earth's saltiest large bodies of water?

Answer: The Dead Sea

12. What most commonly triggers a tsunami?

Answer: An undersea earthquake

EASY EARTH SCIENCE TRIVIA

1. About how long ago did Earth form?

Answer: Earth formed about 4.54 billion years ago.

2. Which gas makes up most of Earth's atmosphere?

Answer: Nitrogen makes up most of Earth's atmosphere.

3. Most everyday weather happens in which layer of the atmosphere?

Answer: Most weather occurs in the troposphere.

4. What is the coldest continent on Earth?

Answer: Antarctica is the coldest continent on Earth.

5. Mount Everest is part of which mountain range?

Answer: Mount Everest lies in the Himalayas.

6. What is a fossil?

Answer: A fossil is preserved evidence of past life.

7. Even though it is extremely hot, Earth's inner core is what state of matter?

Answer: Earth's inner core is solid.

8. The world's largest rainforest is found in what basin?

Answer: The world's largest rainforest is in the Amazon Basin.

9. What is the current geologic period called?

Answer: The current geologic period is the Quaternary.

10. Which geologic epoch began after the Pleistocene?

Answer: The Holocene began after the Pleistocene.

11. About when did the Cambrian Period begin?

Answer: The Cambrian Period began about 541 million years ago.

12. Which geologic period is often called the Age of Fishes?

Answer: The Devonian is often called the Age of Fishes.

13. Which period came right after the Cambrian?

Answer: The Ordovician Period followed the Cambrian.

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/earth-science>