



Grade 8



Earth and Space Science
Process that Shape the Earth

Additional FCAT Practice Questions

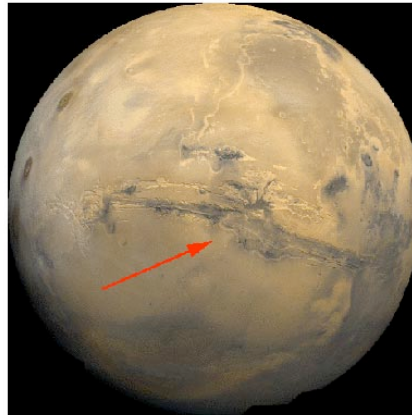
Directions: Select the best answer for each of the following questions

1. What is the name given to the sudden movement of rock down a slope?
 - A. weathering
 - B. glacier
 - C. waterfall
 - D. landslide

2. The landscape of Earth can be affected by many different processes. Two of these processes are weathering and erosion. Which of the following is an example of erosion?
 - A. a river carries sediment to the ocean
 - B. acid rain dissolves rock
 - C. a bicycle rusts in the rain
 - D. ice forming in cracks breaks rock apart

3. Erosion is caused by the movement of water in a river. The moving water picks up small pieces of rocks as it travels. These small pieces of rock crash against the sides and the bottom of a river, causing more erosion. Where would you find a river causing the most erosion?
 - A. after a water fall
 - B. where the river slope is the steepest
 - C. where the river slope is the flattest
 - D. behind a dam

4. Wind has the ability to break down rock into small pieces, and then move those pieces to a different location. How can wind break down solid rock?
- A. moisture in the air carves the rock
 - B. hot air blown by the wind melts the rock
 - C. small pieces of rock carried by the wind break down rock
 - D. cold air carried by the wind causes the rock to crack
5. Many natural processes that shape the surface of the Earth once acted on Mars. An example is the process which produces canyons. The photograph shows a large canyon on Mars called Valles Marineris. The canyon is marked with an arrow.



source: <http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov>

What process likely caused this canyon on Mars?

- A. blowing wind
 - B. running water
 - C. moving ice
 - D. chemical weathering
6. Stanley is watching how human development effects ecosystems int the area in which he lives. He notices that population growth can have harmful effects on every part of an ecosystem. Which of the following would have the most damaging effects on the nutrient cycle in a pond environment?
- A. an increase in the amount of plants surrounding a pond
 - B. oil from cars running off the edge of a road
 - C. animals swimming and eating in pond water
 - D. plants decomposing in the pond water

7. Raoul studied how food chains are part of the nutrient cycle. Food chain includes primary producers, primary consumers, and secondary consumers. Primary and secondary consumers contribute to the food cycle by digesting food, and promoting decomposition. How do primary producers contribute to the nutrient cycle?
- A. primary producers provide food for primary consumers
 - B. primary producers provide food for secondary consumers
 - C. primary producers eat primary and secondary consumers
 - D. primary producers break down dead animal and plant material
8. Seagrass is an important part of the nutrient cycle in the waters along the coast of Florida. Seagrass can be sensitive to many human activities. Too many nutrients in the water can be harmful to seagrass. Which of the following would most likely damage seagrass growing along the coast of Florida?
- A. cruise ships passing close to coastal waters
 - B. humans swimming in the ocean
 - C. fertilizers and pesticides in water running off from farms
 - D. large houses being built along the coast
9. Birth, life and death are all parts of the nutrient cycle. How does the death of a plant contribute to the nutrient cycle?
- A. when a plant dies, it stops using up nutrients
 - B. when a plant dies, less carbon dioxide is produced
 - C. the death of a plant means more space for plants that are still alive
 - D. the dead plant decays, putting valuable chemicals into the environment

Answers

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. D