

Glossary of common terms

A

Agent: A force or substance that causes a change

Example: Which agent of erosion was most likely responsible for shaping the particles forming this rock?

Regents 1/04, question #24

Analysis: examination

Example: Andrija Mohorovicic´ discovered the interface between the crust and the mantle that is now named for him. His discovery of the "Moho" was based on analysis of:

Regents 1/04, question #17

Annual: yearly

Example: Which of these locations had the lowest average annual precipitation?

Regents 1/02, question#10

Apparent: visible, observable

Example: Which diagram correctly shows the apparent motion of Polaris from sunset to midnight for an observer in northern Canada?

Regents 1/03, question #1

Arrangement: classification, composition

Example: The diagram below represents two magnified views showing the arrangement of minerals before and after metamorphism of rock C. State the name of rock C.

Regents 8/03, question #78

B

Basin: A large, bowl-shaped depression in the surface of the land or ocean floor.

Example: The motion of the convection currents in the mantle beneath the Atlantic Ocean appears to be mainly this ocean basin?

Regents 8/02, question #48

Beneath: below; under

Example: Which graph best shows the depth of earthquakes beneath epicenters A, B, C, and D?

Regents 1/04, question #49

Buried: to put in the ground

Example: when clay minerals are buried to the depth of 14 kilometer, which type of metamorphism rock is formed?

Regents 1/ 03, question #55

C

Circulation: rotation, turn

Example: Describe two characteristics of the circulation pattern of the surface winds around the center (eye) of a Northern Hemisphere low-pressure hurricane.

Regents 8/02, question#69

Classified: to arrange or organize by classes

Example: Which table shows the rocks correctly classified by texture?

Regents 8/06, question #50

Coastline: the outline or contour of a coast; shoreline.

Example: A huge undersea earthquake off the Alaskan coastline could produce a

Regents 6/03, question #24

Compaction: an increase in the density of something

Example: As compaction and cementation of these sediments eventually occur, which area will become siltstone?

Regents 1/03, question #12

Compass: an instrument for determining directions

Example: Toward which general compass direction does Elma Creek Flow?

Regents 1/05, question #54

Component: element; ingredient.

Example: Which component of Earth's atmosphere is classified as a greenhouse gas?

Regents 1/06, question #29

Composed: to make or form by combining things

Example: Which two rocks are composed primarily of quartz, feldspar, and clay minerals?

Regents 8/06, question #49

Concentration: the strength of a solution; number of molecules of a substance in a given volume

Example: State the relationship between the distance from the gasoline tank and the concentration of contaminants in the groundwater.

Regents 8/07, question #79

Construct: to build, to make

Example: On the grid below, construct a topographic profile along line *DE* by plotting an X for the elevation of each contour line that crosses line *DE*.

Regents 6/07, question #72

Contaminate: to make impure or unsuitable by contact or mixture with something unclean, bad, etc.

Example: Base your answers to questions 78 through 80 on the field map below, which shows an area of a state park where an underground gasoline tank leaked and contaminated the groundwater.

Regents 8/07, question #78

Contrast: difference, diversity

Example: Contrast the rate of cooling at A that forms intrusive igneous rock with the rate of cooling at B that forms extrusive igneous rock.

Regents 6/06, question #53

Course: the path, route

Example: Over the course of a year, compared to location B, location A will have

Regents 1/03, question #41

Crater: hollow, hole, depression

Example: The photograph below shows an impact crater approximately 1 mile wide located in Diablo Canyon, Arizona. Describe the event that produced this crater.

Regents 8/02, question #53

Cross: to move or pass from one side to the other side

Example: as a ship crosses Prime Meridian an observer on the ship measures the altitude of Polaris at 60° . What is the ship's location?

Regents 8/04, question #10

D

Detected: to discover the existence of

Example: At an altitude of 95 miles above Earth's surface, nearly 100% of the incoming energy from the Sun can be detected. At 55 miles above Earth's surface, most incoming x-ray radiation and some incoming ultraviolet radiation can no longer be detected. This missing radiation was most likely

Regents 8/03, question #17

Delay: The interval of time between two events.

Example: The delay time between points A and B on both graphs is due mainly to the time needed for

Regents 1/07, question #39

Deposited: To put or set down; place.

Example: The pattern of sediment size shown indicates that these sediments were most likely deposited within a?

Regents 1/07, question #29

Depression: an area lower than the surrounding surface.

Example: Overflowing water from the depression moves downhill toward point C. Which topographic map shows the most likely resulting change in the contour lines?

Regents 1/07, question #48

Discharge: to release, send away, or allow to go

Example: State the relationship between this stream's discharge and the amount of suspended sediment that can be carried by this stream.

Regents 1/07, question #78

Displacement: to move something from its natural environment

Example: Which type of crustal movement most likely caused the displacement of features in this area?

Regents 6/02, question #22

E

Elevation: height, the height of a thing above a reference level

Example: What is the elevation of location A?

Regents 6/07, question #70

Equilibrium: balance, stability

Example: A state of dynamic equilibrium exists at location?

Regents 6/02, question #21

Erosion: the process by which the surface of the earth is worn away by the action of water, glaciers, winds, waves, etc

Example: The geologic feature shown in the photograph was primarily deposited by which agent of erosion?

Regents 1/04, question #31

Eruption: outbreak, outburst

Example: What caused most of the destruction associated with the eruption of Nevada Del Ruiz?

Regents 6/04, question #75

Evaporate: to dry up

Example: A student obtains a cup of quartz sand from a beach. A saltwater solution is poured into the sand and allowed to evaporate.

Regents 6/06, question #21

Evidence: something which tends to prove or disprove proof

Example: What evidence can be used to determine that the land surface in the northeast corner of the map is relatively flat?

Regents 8/06, question #44

Experience: to see, to have

Example: Which two observers would be experiencing the same apparent solar time?

Regents 6/03, question #40

Extruded: To push out.

Example: In addition to the ash, solid rock formed on Mt. Hekla from the lava extruded during this eruption. This rock is most likely?

Regents 1/07, question #46

F

Feature: appearance

Example: Which feature provides the best evidence of the environment in which a rock was formed?

Regents 1/04, question #41

Floating: moving from one place to another

Example: The students decided to measure the speed of the stream by floating apples down a straight section of the stream.

Regents 6/01, question #71

Flooding: a great flowing or overflowing of water

Example: which surface soil type has the slowest permeability rate and is most likely to produce flooding?

Regents 8/06, question#7

Flow: to move along in a stream

Example: Explain how the map indicates that Copper Creek flows faster between points *N* and *M* than between points *L* and *K*.

Regents 6/08, question #73

Fragment: a piece, fraction, segment, chip

Example: Compare the particle size of the physically weathered fragments to the particle size of the chemically weathered fragments.

Regents 1/03, question #61

G

General: common, universal

Example: State the general relationship between air temperature and latitude for locations shown on the map.

Regents 1/03, question #60

Gradient: change in field values over distance

Example: Calculate the gradient between points *B* and *C* and label your answer with the correct units.

Regents 6/07, question #71

H

Horizon: the line or circle that forms the apparent boundary between earth and sky.

Example: What is the altitude of Polaris (the North Star) above the northern horizon for observer *A*?

Regents 6/03, question #39

Horizontal: flat or level

Example: How is this pattern of horizontal sorting produced?

Regents 1/04, question #47

I

Infiltration: the passage of water into soil or rock

Example: Which data table best represents the porosity and infiltration time of the beads in the three containers?

Regents 8/07, question#16

Instrument: a device for measuring the present value of a quantity under observation.

Example: Which weather instrument was used to measure the air pressures?

Regents 6/05, question #36

Intensity: energy

Example: In which diagram is the observer experiencing the greatest intensity of insolation?

Regents 1/07, question#33

Interior: inside of anything; internal; inner; further toward a center

Example: The earthquake beneath epicenter *D* occurred in which part of Earth's interior?

Regents 1/04, question #50

Isoline: A line on a map, chart, or graph connecting points of equal value.

Example: On the field map draw the 50-ppm, 100-ppm, and 150-ppm isolines. The 0-ppm isoline has been drawn for you.

Regents 8/07, question #78

G

K

L

Lowering: let or put down

Example: Which two letters represent processes in the water cycle that usually cause a lowering of the water table?

Regents 1/07, question #49

M

Meander: To follow a winding and turning course

Example: The streambank on the outside of this meander is steeper than the streambank on the inside of this meander because the water on the outside of this meander is moving

Regents 1/07, question #23

Motion: the action or process of moving or of changing place or position; movement.

Example: Which diagram correctly shows the apparent motion of Polaris from sunset to midnight for an observer in northern Canada?

Regents 1/03, question #1

N

Numerical: indicating a number

Example: Give the numerical grain-size range that should be placed in the flowchart at C.

Regents 6/06, question #54

O

Observer: a person who watches, views, or notices for scientific or special purposes.

Example: At which location could an observer *not* see *Polaris* in the night sky at any time during the year?

Regents 6/07, question #36

Occurrence: something that happens; event; incident

Example: The occurrence of parallel scratches on bedrock in a U-shaped valley indicates that the area has most likely been eroded by?

Regents 6/02, question #15

Orbit: the curved path, usually described by a planet, around the sun.

Example: Approximately how many degrees per day does Earth revolve in its orbit around the Sun?

Regents 8/07, question #4

P

Precipitation: any form of water, such as rain or snow that falls to the earth's surface.

Example: Approximately how many inches of average yearly precipitation does Rochester, New York, receive?

Regents 8/07, question #39

Preparedness: the state of being prepared; readiness.

Example: Identify two emergency preparedness activities that town officials in Lawson could take before a dam failure to protect people and property from the flood.

Regents 1/04, question #74

Prevent: to keep from occurring

Example: State *one* action that park officials could take to prevent gasoline from contaminating the groundwater in the future.

Regents 8/07, question #80

Q

R

Reduce: to bring down to a lower rank, decrease

Example: Describe one emergency preparation that may reduce the loss of life from a future eruption of the Nevada Del Ruiz volcano.

Regents 6/04, question #79

Residual: leftover; remainder; remaining

Example: The chemical composition of a residual soil in a certain area is determined by the

Regents 1/06, question #22

Revolve: To move in a curved path around a center

Example: Approximately how many degrees per day does Earth revolve in its orbit around the Sun?

Regents 8/07, question #4

Route: course, way, or road for passage or travel

Example: The dashed line on the map below shows a ship's route from Long Island, New York, to Florida.

Regents 6/02, question #1

Runoff: something that drains or flows off, as rain that flows off from the land in streams.

Example: Which graph shows the effect of soil permeability on the amount of runoff in an area?

Regents 6/01, question #33

S

Settling: to drop off

Example: Deposition is affected by particle density. On the grid *in your answer booklet*, draw a line to show the relationship between particle density and settling rate.

Regents 1/07, question #78

Solar time: time measured by Earth's rotation relative to the Sun.

Example: Solar time is based on the position of the Sun. If the solar time at location X is 11 am, at which location is the solar time 5 p.m.?

Regents 8/03, question #8

Solidifies: To make solid, compact, or hard.

Example: When granite melts and then solidifies, it becomes:

Regents 6/04, question #29

Steep: having an almost vertical slope, sheer

Example: What evidence indicates that the ocean floor has a steep slope at point C?

Regents 1/06, question #79

T

Thrust: to push forcibly; shove; put or drive with force

Example: Identify the type of tectonic plate boundary shown on the map that is responsible for the thrust faults along the Washington and Oregon coastline.

Regents 8/03, question #80b

Toward: In the direction of

Example: The S-waves from this earthquake that travel toward Earth's center will

Regents 8/02, question #44

Transports: to carry, move

Example: Which surface ocean current transports warm water to higher latitudes?

Regents 1/02, question #12

Transportation: moving

Example: What is the minimum water velocity needed in a stream to maintain the transportation of the smallest boulder?

Regents 6/06, question #3

Trench: a deep furrow, ditch, or cut in the ground

Example: According to the diagram, the deep trench along the west coast of South America is caused by movement of the oceanic crust that is?

Regents 8/02, question #49

U

Upwelling: The act of rising up from a lower source

Example: Identify the most probable cold ocean current causing the upwelling of nutrients over the Stellwagen Bank.

Regents 1/06, question #78

Urbanization: to make or cause to become urban, as a locality.

Example: How did urbanization affect delay time between points *A* and *B* and the maximum stream discharge?

Regents 1/07, question #40

V

Valley: any depression or hollow, the lower phase of a horizontal wave motion.

Example: Describe additional geologic evidence that might be found on the valley floor that would support the idea that glacial ice formed this valley.

Regents 1/04, question #62

Vary: to cause to be different from something else, to change

Example: This graph shows that insolation varies with

Regents 6/06, question #47

Velocity: speed

Example: Explain why the velocity of the sediment flow created by the earthquake *decreased* as the sediment moved from location *B* to location *C*.

Regents 1/07, question #53

W

Wavy: curly, curved

Example: Wavy bands of light and dark minerals visible in gneiss bedrock probably formed from the

Regents 8/06, question #32

Weathering: The process by which rocks are broken down into small grains

Example: Describe the change in temperature and moisture conditions that would cause an increase in the rate of chemical weathering into clay.

Regents 1/03, question #62