

Building Vocabulary

mantle	Richter scale	continental shelf
crust	loess	lava
delta	drainage basin	sediment
hydrosphere	water table	moraine
epicenter	atmosphere	humus

A. Sentence Completion Select the term that best completes the sentence.

- Floating on the earth's core is the _____, a soft layer about 1,800 miles thick of molten rock.
- The _____ contains the oxygen we breathe, protects the earth from radiation and space debris, and provides the medium for weather and climate.
- The level at which the rock below the soil is saturated marks the rim of the _____.
- The _____ uses information collected by seismographs to determine the relative strength of an earthquake.
- Rocks left behind by a glacier may form a ridge or a hill called a _____.

B. Matching Match the definition in the second column with the word in the first column. Write the appropriate letter next to the word.

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| _____ 1. hydrosphere | a. the point on the earth's surface directly above the beginning of an earthquake |
| _____ 2. drainage basin | b. the organic material in soil |
| _____ 3. crust | c. very fine particles of rock |
| _____ 4. epicenter | d. made up of water elements on the earth including oceans, rivers, lakes, and water in the atmosphere |
| _____ 5. lava | e. magma that has reached the earth's surface |
| _____ 6. sediment | f. the thin layer of rock at the surface of the earth |
| _____ 7. delta | g. the earth's surface from the edge of a continent to the deep part of the ocean |
| _____ 8. loess | h. windblown silt and clay sediments that produce fertile soil |
| _____ 9. humus | i. an area drained by a major river and its tributaries |
| _____ 10. continental shelf | j. a fanlike landform of sediment that is deposited when a river enters the ocean |

C. Writing About Geography Imagine you are a scientist who has to write a report about a recent powerful earthquake. Using each of the following terms correctly, describe the strength and the possible side effect of the earthquake on the back of this page. Underline each term you use.

epicenter earthquake tsunami Richter scale seismograph