Name _____ Date _____

Landforms: Mountains, Plains, Plateaus and Valleys

Directions: First match each landform word to its meaning. Then answer questions about real landforms in the United States.

1. Match each landform to the description that fits its shape.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Mountain
2. _____ Plain
3. _____ Plateau
4. _____ Valley

Choices for question 1

A. Land that has water all around it

B. Water that has land all around it

C. Low land with higher ground, such as hills or mountains, on each side

D. Wide land that is flat or gently rolling, with no steep sides

E. Very high land that rises far above the land around it and narrows to a peak

F. High land with a wide, flat top and steep sides along one or more edges

2. Which mountain range runs through the eastern part of the United States?

A. Sierra Nevada
B. Rocky Mountains
C. Cascade Range
D. Appalachian Mountains

3. Much of Kansas and Nebraska is flat or has low, gentle hills. This land stretches for hundreds of miles. Which landform covers much of these two states?

A. Plain
B. Mountain
C. Canyon
D. Valley

4. Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah meet at the Four Corners. Near there, much of the land is high and flat on top. In many places it ends at steep cliffs. What kind of landform is this?

A. Valley
B. Plain
C. Plateau
D. Mountain

5. In Virginia, the Shenandoah River flows through a long stretch of low land. The Blue Ridge Mountains rise on one side. The Allegheny Mountains rise on the other. What is this low land called?

A. Mountain
B. Plateau
C. Valley
D. Plain

6. Badwater Basin, in Death Valley, California, is 282 feet below sea level. What does that mean?

A. The land there is 282 feet higher than the ocean.

B. The land there is covered by 282 feet of ocean water.

C. The land there is lower than the surface of the ocean.

D. The land there is 282 feet from the nearest beach.

7. The Great Plains reach west until they meet a tall mountain range. Which range is it?

A. Rocky Mountains

B. Sierra Nevada

C. Cascade Range

D. Appalachian Mountains

8. Use the word bank to compare the Appalachian Mountains with the Rocky Mountains.

Word bank
older • taller • younger • up • down

The Appalachian Mountains are much _____ than the Rocky Mountains. Over a very long time, wind and water have worn the Appalachians _____. Their tops are now lower and more rounded.