Name _____ Date _____

Weathering and Erosion: How Water Shapes the Land

Directions: Read about Dev's creek. Then answer each question.

After the Storm

After a summer storm, Dev walked to the creek near his home. The water was brown and rushing fast. A week later, the water was clear and slow again. On the inside of a bend, where the water flowed slowly, Dev found a new pile of sand.

Rock can break into smaller pieces. Water can freeze in a crack and split a rock, and plant roots can push rock apart. This breaking down is called **weathering**. Loose bits of rock, sand, and mud are called **sediment**. When water, wind, ice, or gravity carries sediment to a new place, that is **erosion**.

Fast water can carry more sediment, and bigger pieces, than slow water. When moving water slows down, it drops some of the sediment it carries. Dropping sediment in a new place is called **deposition**.

1. Match each word from the creek passage with what it means.
Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ weathering
2. _____ sediment
3. _____ erosion
4. _____ deposition

A. Dropping sediment in a new place
B. Melted rock deep under the ground
C. Breaking rock down into smaller pieces
D. Carrying sediment to a new place
E. Loose bits of rock, sand, and mud

2. What most likely made the creek water look brown right after the storm?
A. The rushing water was carrying mud.
B. The water had stopped carrying any sand or mud.
C. The water itself had turned into mud.
D. Sunlight shining on the water turned it brown.

3. Why did a new pile of sand form on the inside of the bend?

A. Plants growing at the bend made the sand.

B. Fast water on the inside of the bend broke a rock into sand.

C. Ice in the creek melted and turned into sand.

D. The water slowed down there and dropped some of the sand it was carrying.

4. Use the word bank to finish the sentences about a rock on a hill.

Word bank
erosion • sediment • weathering • deposition

Over many years, tree roots grew into a crack in a big rock and split it into pieces. That breaking down is _____. Then heavy rains washed the pieces down the hill to a new place. That moving is _____.

5. Which of these is erosion caused by something other than water?

A. Waves pull sand off a beach.

B. Wind blows sand off a dune and across a road.

C. A river carries pebbles downstream.

D. Rain washes soil off a garden.

6. On a warm, dry day with no wind, a few loose rocks break off a steep cliff and tumble to the bottom. What moves the rocks?

A. Ice B. Gravity C. Running water D. Wind

7. Dev scoops up a handful of sand from the new pile. Where did this sand most likely come from in the first place?

A. Bigger rocks that broke down into tiny pieces

B. Sand that grows in the creek the way plants grow

C. Mud that dried out and turned into sand

D. Rain that hardened into sand during the storm

8. What would happen if heavy rain made Dev's creek flow much faster than usual for a day?

A. It would drop all of its sediment at once.

B. It would stop carrying sediment until the rain ended.

C. It would turn its sediment back into solid rock.

D. It would probably carry more sediment, and bigger pieces, than usual.