

Varsity Blitz: Glacial Formation

Directions: Answer the multiple choice questions.

Questions

1. What is firn?
recrystallized snow left over after previous seasons
ice at the top of a glacier
the water that melts from a glacier
the land that a glacier covers
2. The downhill movement and spreading outward of a glacier is called
melting
retreat
advancing
ablation
3. A glacier retreats when
more snow falls than melts
ablation exceeds ice accumulation
ice accumulation exceeds melting
snowfall is greater than ablation
4. Which of the following best defines the term glacier?
a river that is periodically frozen
a covering of snow on the top of a mountain
the snow that accumulates in polar areas
a mass of ice that flows over land
5. Where are glaciers found in tropical climates?
on the tops of high mountains
northern slopes of hills
the base of north-facing mountains
all of the above
6. Where are glaciers most often found?
Australia
North America
Pacific Islands
Antarctica and Greenland
7. Ablation is the
accumulation of snow over several seasons
loss of glacial material by melting or breaking apart
growth of a new glacier
recrystallization of snow
8. Environments above the snowline are characterized as having
snow only every few years

no snow year round
snowy winters and cool summers
snowy winters and warm summers

Answers

1. recrystallized snow left over from previous seasons

Correct Feedback: Firn forms when snow recrystallizes to a granular form and accumulates into layers over several seasons.

2. advancing

Correct Feedback: The growth and movement of a glacier is called glacial advance.

3. ablation exceeds ice accumulation

Correct Feedback: Glaciers retreat when ablation exceeds ice accumulation.

4. a mass of ice that flows over land

Correct Feedback: Glaciers are masses of ice that flow over land.

5. on the tops of high mountains

Correct Feedback: Glaciers are only found in tropical climates on the tops of high mountains.

6. Antarctica and Greenland

Correct Feedback: Glaciers are most often found in Antarctica and Greenland.

7. loss of glacial material by melting or breaking apart

Correct Feedback: Ablation is the loss of surface glacial material by melting or breaking part.

8. snowy winters and cool summers

Correct Feedback: Areas above the snowline have snowy winters and cool summers that discourage melting.