Continental Drift, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanoes Study Guide

1. Define the following vocabulary: lithosphere, asthenosphere, fault, tectonic plate, Pangaea, earthquake, seismic wave
2. What does the Theory of Continental Drift say?
3. What evidence did Alfred Wegener offer to support his theory of Continental Drift?
4. Why didn’t most scientists believe Alfred Wegener’s Theory of Continental Drift when he first proposed it?
5. What does the Theory of Plate Tectonics say?
6. What makes the tectonic plates move?
7. Describe the 3 types of plate boundaries, and the movement that occurs at each one.
8. What land features or events are formed at each type of plate boundary?
9. What is a mid-ocean ridge and how does it form?
10. Describe what sea-floor spreading is and how it occurs
11. Name the three types of evidence we studied that supports sea-floor spreading
12. What is subduction?  Where does it occur and why?
13. What role does subduction play in changing the size and shape of oceans?
14. Name the 3 types of stresses that act on rocks, and describe which type of boundary they occur at.
15. Name the 3 types of faults we learned about.
16. How are plate boundaries and stresses related?
17. How are stresses and faults related?
18. How do earthquakes happen?
19. What is the difference between the focus and epicenter of an earthquake?
20. Which type of seismic wave causes the most damage?
21. Where do most earthquakes occur?
22. What does the Richter scale measure?
23. What does the Mercalli scale measure?
24. What is a volcano and how does it erupt?
25. Name and describe the main parts of a volcano.
26. What is the difference between magma and lava?
27. Where do most volcanoes occur?
28. What is the Ring of Fire?
29. What is a hot spot volcano?
30. What is the difference between an active, dormant, and extinct volcano?
31. What is a pyroclastic flow?
32. Name and describe the 3 most common types of volcanoes.