Water carves the land — Quiz #1

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____/15

Reading Passage

The coastlines of North America have a beautiful, but unusual shape. The ocean waves are responsible for weathering away bits of soil, rock, and sand wherever the water meets the land.

Some beaches change more than others. Those that experience severe storms or frequent winds change the most. Water carries the sediment, or sand, soil and rocks, and drops it along another

part of the coast.

A bay is formed when wears away the land in a natural curve. This creates a body of water that has a wide opening to the sea, but is partly enclosed by land. The waters of a bay are

usually calm.

Ocean waves aren't the only water sources that pick up and redeposit sediment. River systems are made up of many different rivers. They join up on their journey toward the ocean. They all

eventually join a major river that will take them all the way to the ocean. One example of this is the Mississippi River system. It eventually empties into the Gulf of Mexico. At the mouth of the river, deposits of sediment build up over time. This forms a large land area called a delta.

Sometimes people change the path that water naturally follows. Man-made lakes are created by building dams. The lake that

forms is called a reservoir and stores the region's fresh water supplies. In some areas, the dam may also use the force of gravity to make electricity. Water rushing from a high place to

a low one turns huge turbines, or wheels, creating and storing electricity for the region's power system. Water from reservoirs can also be used in irrigation projects that help farmers get enough water to grow crops. Water often shapes our land. Humans also shape and control

the water sources of the Earth.

MCQ:

MCQ **1. What primary force is identified as being responsible for weathering away soil, rock, and sand along North American coastlines?**

- a. Ocean waves
- b. Tidal currents
- c. Glacial movement
- d. Human construction

MCQ **2. According to the text, which type of coastal area undergoes the most significant structural changes?**

- a. Beaches experiencing severe storms or frequent winds
- b. Bays with calm waters
- c. Coastlines with artificial dams
- d. Land areas located near river deltas

MCQ **3. How does the passage formally define "sediment"?**

- a. Sand, soil, and rocks carried by water
- b. Fresh water stored in reservoirs
- c. Curving land formations created by ocean currents
- d. Turbines used to generate electrical energy

MCQ **4. What geological mechanism forms a bay along a coastline?**

- a. Water wearing away the land in a natural curve
- b. Sediments building up at the mouth of a major river
- c. High-pressure currents pushing freshwater into the ocean
- d. Gravity drawing water from high places to low places

MCQ **5. Which characteristic best describes the water enclosed within a bay?**

- a. Typically calm
- b. Rapidly moving and turbulent
- c. High in sediment density
- d. Deep and ocean-facing

MCQ **6. What is the structural composition of a river system as described in the passage?**

- a. Multiple joining rivers that eventually connect to a major river leading to the ocean
- b. A single main river that flows directly from mountains to the ocean
- c. A series of man-made lakes connected by irrigation canals
- d. A network of enclosed bays feeding into coastal reservoirs

MCQ **7. Where is the sediment deposited that eventually leads to the formation of a delta?**

- a. At the mouth of a river
- b. Along the inner curve of a bay
- c. In high-altitude reservoirs
- d. Beneath hydroelectric turbines

MCQ **8. Which major river system is highlighted as an example of river sediment build-up emptying into a large body of water?**

- a. The Mississippi River system
- b. The Colorado River system
- c. The Amazon River system
- d. The St. Lawrence River system

MCQ **9. Into what specific body of water does the river system mentioned in the passage empty?**

- a. The Gulf of Mexico
- b. The Pacific Ocean
- c. The Atlantic Ocean
- d. The Great Lakes

MCQ **10. What type of body of water is formed when humans construct a dam across a river path?**

- a. A reservoir
- b. A natural delta
- c. A bay
- d. An estuary

MCQ **11. What is the main function of a reservoir, according to the text?**

- a. Storing a region's fresh water supplies
- b. Speeding up sediment redeposition
- c. Creating natural curves along coastal beaches
- d. Preventing severe ocean storms from reaching land

MCQ **12. What natural physical force is harnessed by dams to generate electricity?**

- a. Gravity
- b. Tides
- c. Wave action
- d. Thermal expansion

MCQ **13. How is electricity physically generated within a dam's power system?**

- a. Rushing water turns large wheels known as turbines
- b. Water movement wears away sediment, releasing kinetic energy
- c. Fresh water reacts chemically inside the reservoir
- d. Coastal waves compress air inside natural bays

MCQ **14. How do irrigation projects mentioned in the text utilize water from reservoirs?**

- a. By channeling fresh water to assist farmers in growing crops
- b. By converting ocean saltwater into drinkable fresh water
- c. By flushing excess sediment out to sea to form deltas
- d. By diverting river water to prevent weathering along beaches

MCQ **15. What is the central theme of the provided passage?**

- a. Water continuously shapes natural landforms, while humans also modify and manage water sources.
- b. Ocean storms are the single greatest threat to North American geography.
- c. Man-made dams are more effective at shaping the Earth than natural erosion processes.
- d. Delta formations provide the most important source of agricultural irrigation.