

Glacier Webquest Answer Key

Questions:

1. What are glaciers?

Glaciers are masses of ice made made up of snow that has accumulated over time.

2. What are the parts of a glacier? Describe the main parts.

Accumulation area is part of the glacier at the highest elevation where snow falls and accumulates.

Ablation area is the part of the glacier at lower elevations where melting and ablation occur.

Crevasses are cracks that form in the glacier.

Moraines form when glaciers carry rocky debris as they move. These can be medial (along the middle) or terminal (at the end of the glacier).

3. What qualifies an ice mass as a glacier?

To classify an ice mass as a glacier, it must be more than 164 feet thick and

4. Where is Earth's largest glacier? What is the glacier named? How large is the glacier?

Earth's largest glacier is the Lambert-Fisher Glacier in Antarctica. It's 250 miles long, and up to 60 miles wide.

5. Where and how do glaciers form?

Glaciers form in areas where snow accumulates and turns into ice. As new snow falls each year, new layers form and compress the snow turning it into ice.

6. Where on Earth are glaciers located? Why do they still exist there?
Glaciers are found on most continents in areas where temperatures are cool year round and snow falls.

7. How does elevation affect glacier formation?
Earth's colder regions such as the poles and higher elevations provide conditions for the formation of glaciers where snow can accumulate over time.

8. What types of glaciers are there? Describe three.

Mountain

Valley

Tidewater

Piedmont

Hanging glacier

Cirque glacier

Ice aprons

Rock glaciers

Ice shelves

Ice fields

Ice caps

Ice streams

9. Why do glaciers move?

The weight of glacier and the force of gravity move the glacier.

10. How do glaciers change the landscape?

Glaciers remove and transport sediment and deposit materials in new regions as they move. Glaciers also erode the surface and create new landforms.

11. Why is the presence of ice important to Earth's climate? What does the ice do? Ice reflects sunlight which helps to keep Earth from getting too warm.