Year 8 Science: Earth's layers, minerals and rocks

Name: _____ Date: _____

Try these without your notes first, then check the answer key.

Practice

1. Name the four layers of the Earth from the outside in.

2. Is glass a mineral? Explain.

3. Rock X scratches glass. Rock Y can be scratched by a copper coin. Which is harder?

4. A rock has thin layers of rounded sand grains and no crystals. Which rock from the example is it most like?

5. A rock near the top of a hill contains fossil fish. What does this tell you about the past?

Fix the mistake

6. Correct this statement: "Rocks and minerals are the same thing."

7. Correct this statement: "The Earth's core is hot liquid all the way through."

8. Correct this statement: "A shiny or brightly coloured rock must be hard."

9. Correct this statement: "Fossils found on a mountain mean sea animals once lived on mountains."

Answer key (for parents and tutors)

1. Name the four layers of the Earth from the outside in.
   Crust, mantle, outer core, inner core.
2. Is glass a mineral? Explain.
   No: its particles do not form a repeating pattern, so it has no crystals.
3. Rock X scratches glass. Rock Y can be scratched by a copper coin. Which is harder?
   Rock X, because it scratches glass, which is harder than a coin.
4. A rock has thin layers of rounded sand grains and no crystals. Which rock from the example is it most like?
   Sandstone, like sample C.
5. A rock near the top of a hill contains fossil fish. What does this tell you about the past?
   That rock formed under water, so the area was once under the sea or a lake and has since been lifted up.
6. Correct this statement: "Rocks and minerals are the same thing."
   A mineral is one substance with a repeating pattern; a rock is a mixture of one or more minerals.
7. Correct this statement: "The Earth's core is hot liquid all the way through."
   The outer core is liquid, but the inner core is solid because of the enormous pressure.
8. Correct this statement: "A shiny or brightly coloured rock must be hard."
   Colour and shine do not tell you hardness; only a scratch test does.
9. Correct this statement: "Fossils found on a mountain mean sea animals once lived on mountains."
   The rock formed under the sea and was later pushed up to become a mountain.