

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Earth's Changing Surface Student Pre- or Posttest (Answer Key)**

1. What do you know about the surface of Earth and its different landforms? Use words and pictures to describe what you know.

**Ideal response:**

There are many different landforms on Earth, including mountains, valleys, hills, plains, deserts, and plateaus *[or a similar list]*.

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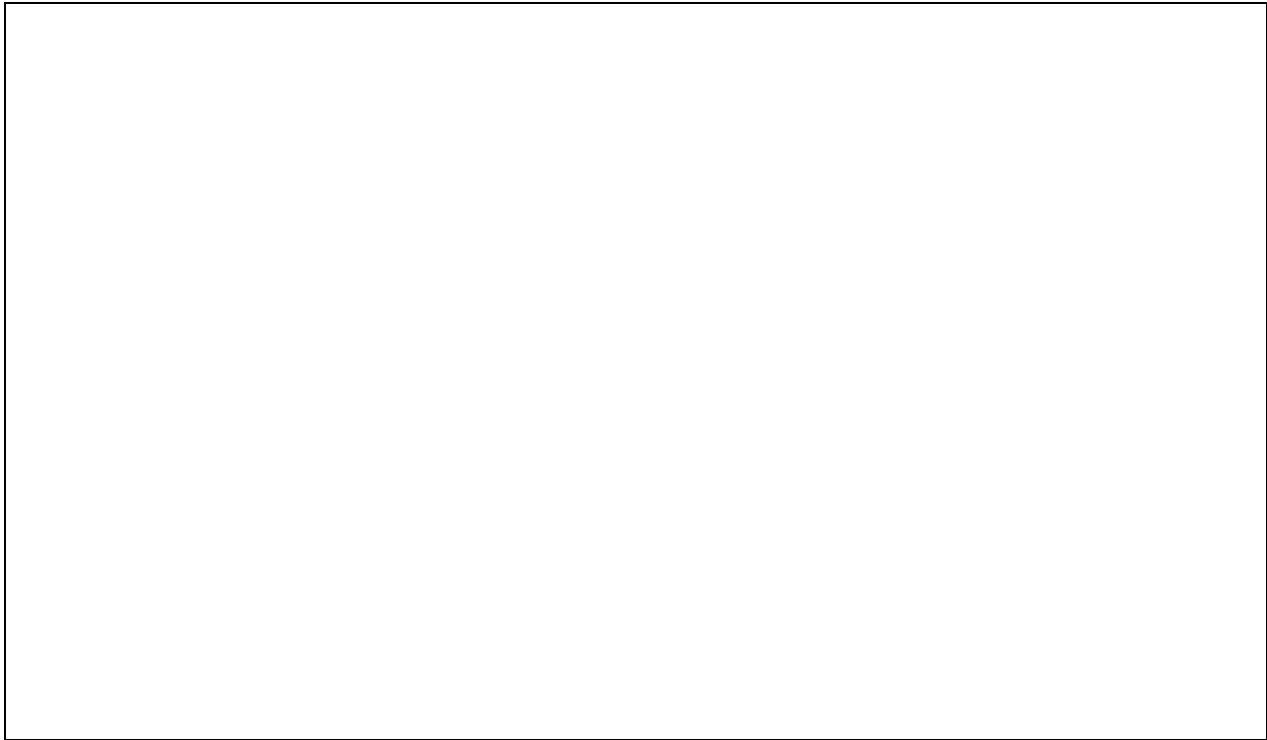
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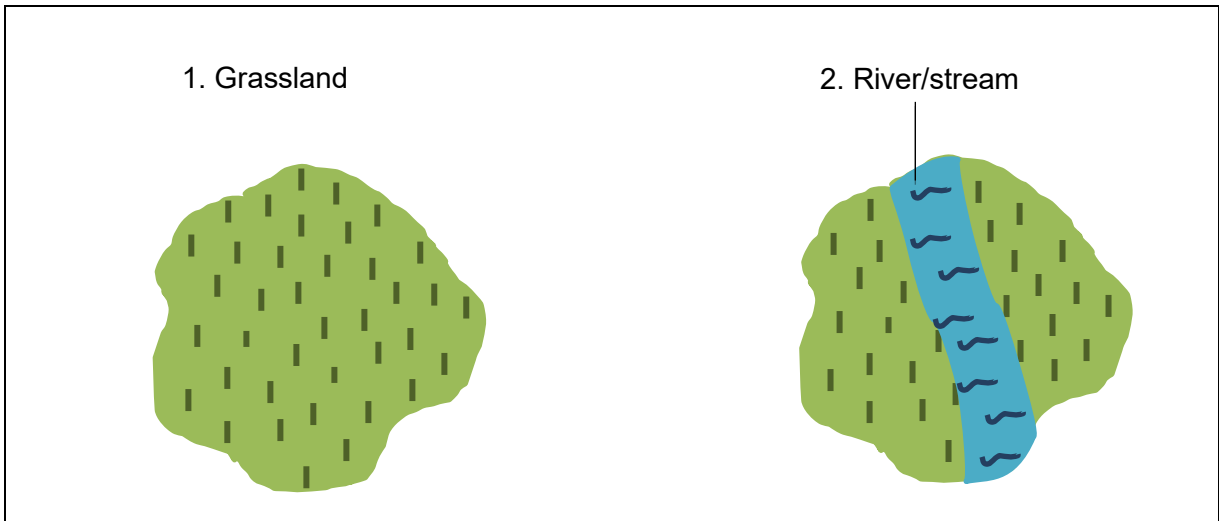
2. Describe in pictures and words how mountains can form.



**Ideal response:**

Earth's surface is made up of large, thin, interlocking sections called *tectonic plates*. These plates float or ride on a thick layer of hot, slow-moving rock inside Earth. Mountains can form when two similar plates collide. This causes Earth's surface to crumple and lift up the land. Sometimes when plates collide, one plate sinks underneath the other and melts. This melted material can erupt on Earth's surface as a volcano. After many volcanic eruptions, the cooling lava slowly builds up the land surrounding the volcano. *[The mantle isn't molten but consists of dense, solid rock that can deform and flow like playdough.]*

3. In what ways do you think water changes the surface of Earth? (Think about rainfall, streams, and rivers as examples.)
- a. Draw a picture.



- b. Explain your drawing.

**Ideal response:**

Water has the ability to change landforms by eroding the landscape to form valleys and canyons. Flowing water in rivers and streams can also carry eroded rock and soil to other places, where it builds up as sediment.

4. What do you think caused the rocks in this picture to look the way they do?



Photo courtesy Ahodges7, Wikimedia

**Ideal response:**

Flowing water in a stream or river originally deposited these rocks in layers. Now erosion from rain and wind is carving and shaping them.

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