

Quick Check

Gems: Treasures from the Earth

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. Why do rare gems cost a great amount of money?
 - Ⓐ They are rare.
 - Ⓑ Mining them is often done by hand.
 - Ⓒ They are only found deep within the earth.
 - Ⓓ All of the above
2. Where are most crystals formed?
 - Ⓐ on the slopes of volcanoes
 - Ⓑ deep within the earth
 - Ⓒ in rivers in Africa
 - Ⓓ all of the above
3. How are crystals and organic gems different?
 - Ⓐ Crystals are minerals, and organic gems come from living things.
 - Ⓑ Crystals are found near the surface of the earth, and organic gems come from deep within the earth.
 - Ⓒ Crystals are skeletons of tiny sea creatures, and organic gems are mixed minerals with strict shapes.
 - Ⓓ Crystals are used in jewelry, and organic gems are used on tools.
4. What are **atoms**?
 - Ⓐ types of gems created from crystals
 - Ⓑ very small particles that make up all things on Earth
 - Ⓒ certain types of gems found only in South America
 - Ⓓ types of sea creatures that form coral reefs

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5. Why is it important for a gem in a ring to be high on the Mohs scale?
 - Ⓐ so it will have a purer color
 - Ⓑ so it will not have any streaks or grain
 - Ⓒ so it will not be damaged during wear
 - Ⓓ so it will be closer to a diamond on the scale
6. How is a gem valued?
 - Ⓐ by where it was mined
 - Ⓑ by how many facets it contains
 - Ⓒ by how hard it was to locate and mine
 - Ⓓ by its cut, carat, color, and clarity
7. What is not true about natural pearls?
 - Ⓐ They can take years to form.
 - Ⓑ They are perfectly round.
 - Ⓒ They are an organic gemstone.
 - Ⓓ They form inside oysters from a grain of sand.
8. Which of the following includes an opinion?
 - Ⓐ The most valuable quartz is a stone called *opal*.
 - Ⓑ Blue-green turquoise often has pretty spots and streaks running through it.
 - Ⓒ Gem-quality emeralds are rare and usually small.
 - Ⓓ Quartz is found all over the world, in all colors of the rainbow.
9. What type of gem is formed when a mineral is squeezed under layers of rock?
 - Ⓐ diamond
 - Ⓑ emerald
 - Ⓒ pearl
 - Ⓓ opal
10. Which of the following is not a **crystal**?
 - Ⓐ a diamond
 - Ⓑ a pearl
 - Ⓒ a sapphire
 - Ⓓ an opal

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11. Extended Response: How can creating gems in a lab benefit people and the environment?

12. Extended Response: Would you like to be a miner searching for valuable gems? Support your opinion with at least two reasons.

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Gems: Treasures from the Earth*Main Comprehension Skill: Cause and Effect*

1. Ⓓ *Cause and Effect*
2. Ⓑ *Main Idea and Details*
3. Ⓐ *Compare and Contrast*
4. Ⓑ *Vocabulary*
5. Ⓒ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
6. Ⓓ *Main Idea and Details*
7. Ⓑ *Main Idea and Details*
8. Ⓑ *Fact or Opinion*
9. Ⓐ *Cause and Effect*
10. Ⓑ *Vocabulary*
11. Answers will vary somewhat but should include the following:
mining gems is not always safe
and growing gems in a lab cost a thousand times less.
12. Answers will vary.