PARAGRAPH 3

The Earth's crust is thought to be divided into huge, movable segments, called plates, which float on a soft plastic layer of rock. Some mountains were formed as a result of these plates crashing into each other and forcing up the rock at the plate margins. In this process, sedimentary rocks that originally formed on the seabed may be folded upwards to altitudes of more than 26,000 feet. Other mountains may be raised by earthquakes, which fracture the Earth's crust and can displace enough rock to produce block mountains. A third type of mountain may be formed as a result of volcanic activity which occurs in regions of active fold mountain belts, such as in the Cascade Range of western North America. The Cascades are made up of lavas and volcanic materials. Many of the peaks are extinct volcanoes.

6. According to paragraph 3, one cause of mountain formation is the

- ⬭ effect of climatic change on sea level
- ⬭ slowing down of volcanic activity
- ⬭ force of Earth's crustal plates hitting each other
- ⬭ replacement of sedimentary rock with volcanic rock

PARAGRAPH 5

The weather, in its many forms, is the main agent of erosion. Rain washes away loose soil and penetrates cracks in the rocks. Carbon dioxide in the air reacts with the rainwater, forming a weak acid (carbonic acid) that may chemically attack the rocks. The rain seeps underground and the water may reappear later as springs. These springs are the sources of streams and rivers, which cut through the rocks and carry away debris from the mountains to the lowlands.

7. Why does the author mention "Carbon dioxide" in the passage?

- ⬭ To explain the origin of a chemical that can erode rocks
- ⬭ To contrast carbon dioxide with carbonic acid
- ⬭ To give an example of how rainwater penetrates soil
- ⬭ To argue for the desirability of preventing erosion

8. The word "seeps" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- ⬭ dries gradually
- ⬭ flows slowly
- ⬭ freezes quickly
- ⬭ warms slightly

LIVEWORKSHEETS