Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Glaciers Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Glaciers are made up of fallen snow that, over many years, compresses into large, thickened ice masses. Glaciers form when snow remains in one location long enough to transform into ice. Presently, glaciers occupy about 10 percent of the world's total land area, with most located in Polar Regions like Antarctica, Greenland, and the Canadian Arctic. Although glaciers are made of ice and appear to be sitting still, they are actually moving. The weight of a glacier will cause it to move slowly downhill, sort of like a very slow moving river. The speed of glaciers varies widely with some moving as slow as a few feet a year while others may move several feet per day. Scientists have given names to different types of glaciers. Here are a few of the main types:

Ice cap - An ice cap is formed when ice completely covers an area of land such that no part of the land, not even mountain peaks, poke through the top of the ice cap.

Polar - A polar glacier is one that is formed in an area where the temperature is always below the freezing point. Most of the country of Greenland is covered with a giant icecap that is nearly two miles thick in areas. Because of friction, the top of a glacier moves faster than the bottom. At over 125 miles long, Bering Glacier in Alaska is the longest glacier in the United States.

1. What are glaciers?
   a. ☐ large, thickened ice masses
   b. ☐ large lakes
   c. ☐ planets

2. Where are most glaciers located?
   a. ☐ in South America
   b. ☐ in the Polar Regions
   c. ☐ planets

3. Do glaciers move?
   a. ☐ no, they never move
   b. ☐ yes, they move at varied speeds

4. What are the two types of glaciers?
   a. ☐ Ice Caps and Polar
   b. ☐ Polar and Grizzly
   c. ☐ Ice Caps and Ice Bottoms

5. How are polar glaciers formed?
   a. ☐ in areas that are very hot
   b. ☐ from the leaves that fall from trees
   c. ☐ in an area where the temperature is below the freezing point

LIVEWORKSHEETS