Warm-Up 17

Name _____

The Appalachian Mountains

The Appalachian Mountains run through eastern North America. They extend from Newfoundland, Canada, all the way to Alabama. Four mountain ranges are included in the Appalachian system. They are the Alleghenies of New York, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and North Carolina, and the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina.

Geologists know that parts of the Appalachian Mountains formed from 750 million to one billion years ago. These mountains are not nearly as tall as the Rocky Mountains in the American West or the Himalaya Mountains in Asia. In fact, Mount Mitchell in North Carolina is the tallest peak. It is 6,684 feet high. That's just 25 percent as tall as Mt. Everest.

You can walk the length of the Appalachian Mountains along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. American Indians once used its winding path. It is 2,144 miles long. The trail starts at Mount Katahdin in Maine and goes to Springer Mountain in Georgia. Along the way, hikers pass through fourteen states, eight national forests, and two national parks. Most people hike just a section of the trail. A few thru-hikers do the whole route. Hiking starts in March and ends in October.

Check Your Understanding

1. Where are the Appalachian Mountains located?
- a. the western United States
- b. in Asia near Mt. Everest
- c. in eastern North America
- d. in the center of the United States

2. Which people first made the path along the Appalachian Trail?
- a. park rangers
- b. thru-hikers
- c. lumbermen
- d. American Indians

3. Which of the following is an opinion and *not* a fact?
- a. The tallest peak is 6,684 feet high.
- b. The Great Smoky Mountains are in Tennessee.
- c. The Appalachian Mountains are the most beautiful mountains in America.
- d. Many rivers begin in the Appalachians as small streams.

4. What can you infer from reading the first paragraph?
- a. The Appalachian Mountains are new and tall.
- b. Mountain ranges are larger than mountain systems, such as the Appalachians.
- c. Mountain ranges are smaller than mountain systems, such as the Appalachians.
- d. The Appalachian Mountains have three ranges.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS