SPHERES OF EARTH

Vocabulary

The exercises below are based on the article. Read it before you start: https://earthhow.com/spheres-of-earth/

Exercise 1. Match each sphere (1–8) with its definition (a–h).

Sphere	Definition
1. Mesosphere (interior) ____	a) The lowest layer of the atmosphere; contains 80% of the air and most weather
2. Geosphere ____	b) A soft, plastic-like layer beneath the crust; passively moves the continents (continental drift)
3. Magnetosphere ____	c) The deep interior of Earth, consisting of the core and mantle
4. Cryosphere ____	d) The layer of soil on Earth's surface; formed from weathered rock; where plants establish their roots
5. Troposphere ____	e) The whole outer shell of Earth; divided into continental and oceanic crust
6. Pedosphere ____	f) All locations where water exists in solid form: glaciers, ice sheets, frozen lakes
7. Lithosphere ____	g) A protective bubble around Earth, shaped by the magnetic field; shields from solar particles
8. Asthenosphere ____	h) All the rocks on Earth; hard, brittle, and old; rocks here are recycled through the rock cycle

Exercise 2. Complete the summary with the words from the box.

geosphere | lithosphere | pedosphere | biosphere | rock cycle | continental | oceanic | food web | decomposers | eroded

The outer shell of the Earth is called the **(1)** _____. It includes the **(2)** _____ crust (the land) and the **(3)** _____ crust (under the ocean). All the rocks on Earth form the **(4)** _____. Rocks are recycled through the **(5)** _____, which builds igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks. When rocks are **(6)** _____ over time, they become soil in the **(7)** _____. All living things together are called the **(8)** _____. Organisms depend on each other in an intricate **(9)** _____. When animals die, **(10)** _____ break them down, and the nutrients are recycled.

Exercise 3. Match the words to make collocations.

A	B
1. continental	**a)** web
2. mid-oceanic	**b)** radiation

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3. solar	**c)** cycle
4. ozone	**d)** ridges
5. tectonic	**e)** field
6. continental	**f)** crust
7. magnetic	**g)** drift
8. rock	**h)** waves
9. seismic	**i)** plates
10. food	**j)** layer

Exercise 4. Complete the sentences with collocations from Exercise 3.

1. The _____ protects us from harmful UV rays from the sun.
2. New rock forms at _____ deep in the ocean.
3. The _____ builds igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks.
4. Scientists use _____ to study the interior of the Earth.
5. Earthquakes happen when _____ collide or move apart.
6. The _____ is thicker but less dense than oceanic crust.
7. Alfred Wegener proposed the theory of _____ in the early 20th century.

Exercise 5. Vocabulary check. Choose the correct meaning of each word as it is used in the article.

1. In the article, "brittle" (about the lithosphere) means:
   a) flexible and soft **b)** hard and easily broken **c)** hot and liquid

2. The word "erode" in the article means:
   a) to heat up and melt **b)** to gradually wear away by wind, water, or temperature
   c) to freeze and expand

3. "Decomposers" in the biosphere are organisms that:
   a) hunt and eat other animals **b)** break down dead matter and recycle nutrients
   c) produce oxygen from sunlight

4. The article says the asthenosphere is like a "plasticky substance." This means it is:
   a) completely liquid, like water **b)** thick, soft, and able to flow very slowly
   c) hard, dry, and brittle

5. The phrase "spews out" (about lava at mid-oceanic ridges) is closest in meaning to:
   a) slowly drips **b)** pours or flows out with force **c)** disappears underground

6. In the article, "ionized" means that something has become:
   a) electrically charged b) extremely cold c) completely invisible

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