

READING

Every drop of water in the ocean, even in the deepest parts, responds to the forces that create the tides. No other force that affects the sea is so strong. Compared with the tides, the waves created by the wind are surface movements **felt** no more than a hundred fathoms below the surface. The currents also seldom involve more than the upper several hundred fathoms despite their impressive sweep.

The tides are a response of the waters of the ocean to the pull of the Moon and the more distant Sun. In theory, there is a gravitational attraction between the water and even the outermost star of the universe. **In reality**, however, the pull of remote stars is so slight as to be obliterated by the control of the Moon and, to a lesser extent, the Sun. Just as the Moon rises later each day by fifty minutes, on the average, so, in most places, the time of high tide is **correspondingly** later each day. And as the Moon waxes and wanes in its monthly cycle, so the height of the tide varies. The tidal movements are strongest when the Moon is a sliver in the sky, and when it is full. These are the highest flood tides and the lowest ebb tides of the lunar month and are called the spring tides. At these times the Sun, Moon, and Earth are nearly in line and the pull of the two heavenly bodies is added together to bring the water high on the beaches, to send its surf upward against the sea cliffs, and to draw a high tide into the harbors. Twice each month, at the quarters of the Moon, when the Sun, Moon and Earth lie at the apexes of a triangular **configuration** and the pull of the Sun and Moon are opposed, the moderate tidal movements called neap tides occur. Then the difference between high and low water is less than at any other time during the month.

11. What is the main point of the first paragraph?

- A. The waves created by ocean currents are very large.
- B. Despite the strength of the wind, it only moves surface water.
- C. Deep ocean water is seldom affected by forces that move water.
- D. The tides are the most powerful force to affect the movement of ocean water.

12. The word "felt" in line 3 is closest in meaning to

- A. based
- B. dropped
- C. detected
- D. explored

13. The words "In reality" in line 8 are closest in meaning to

- A. surprisingly
- B. actually
- C. characteristically
- D. similarly

14. It can be inferred from the passage that the most important factor in determining how much gravitational effect one object in space has on the tides is

- A. size
- B. distance
- C. temperature
- D. density

15. The word "correspondingly" in line 11 is closest in meaning to

- A. unpredictably
- B. interestingly
- C. similarly
- D. unusually

16. What is the cause of spring tides?

- A. Seasonal changes in the weather
- B. The gravitational pull of the Sun and the Moon when nearly in line with the Earth
- C. The Earth's movement around the Sun
- D. The triangular arrangement of the Earth, Sun, and Moon

17. The word "configuration" in line 18 is closest in meaning to

- A. unit
- B. center
- C. surface
- D. arrangement

18. Neap tides occur when

- A. the Sun counteracts the Moon's gravitational attraction
- B. the Moon is full
- C. the Moon is farthest from the Sun
- D. waves created by the wind combine with the Moon's gravitational attraction

19. According to the passage, all of the following statements about tides are true EXCEPT:

- A. The time of high tide is later each day.
- B. Tides have a greater effect on the sea than waves do.
- C. The strongest tides occur at the quarters of the Moon.
- D. Neap tides are more moderate than spring tides.

20. Where in the passage does the author mention movements of ocean water other than those caused by tides?

- A. Lines 2-5
- B. Lines 9-11
- C. Lines 12-14
- D. Lines 15-19