Name: _____

Movements of the Ocean

Water covers almost three quarters (3/4) of the earth's surface. There is fresh water and salt water on Earth. About one tenth (1/10) of water on the earth is fresh water (e.g. rivers and lakes). Nine tenths (9/10) of water on Earth is saltwater. Most of the saltwater is found in the oceans.

Ocean water is never still. Waves, tides and currents cause the ocean to move constantly. An **ocean current** is the continuous movement of ocean water from one place to another.

Waves are the alternating rising and falling of water. Waves are caused by the wind. Wind blowing over the surface of the ocean transfers energy to the water and causes waves to form.

Tides are the alternate rise and fall of the oceans and seas and bodies of water connected to them. Tides are caused by the gravitational force of the moon acting on the oceans and seas. Ocean water tilts back and forth because of the gravitational pull of the moon, which causes a high tide and a low tide each day.

Use the notes above to answer the following questions.

1. What percentage of the Earth is covered by water?

a. 10% b. 50% c. 75% d. 90%

2. Complete the statement below.

About one tenth of the water on Earth is made up of _____

and nine tenths of it is made up of _____

3. How does water move from one ocean to the other?

_____

4. Explain how waves form.

_____

5. What holds things down on Earth?

a. energy b. gravitational force c. magnets d. ocean currents

6. When do the high and low tides occur?

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS