**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Hour\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**WS: Understanding the Crust**

**Learning Objectives:**

E3.2C Describe the differences between oceanic and continental crust (including density, age, composition).

**Directions:** Use the internet and your book (pp. 124-135) to answer the following questions.

1. What is Earth’s crust?

1. What is a short definition for continental crust?
2. What is a short definition for oceanic crust?

**Continental Crust Questions**

1. What is the **composition** of the continental crust (i.e., what is it made of)?

1. Which rock makes up the majority of the continents (i.e., makes the continental crust)?
2. Is this rock igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic?
3. This rock comprises (i.e., makes up) what percent of all the continental rock?
4. What is the **density** of continental crust?

1. What is the average **age** of continental crust?
2. How does continental crust form (i.e., created, born)?

**Oceanic Crust Questions**

1. What is the **composition** of the oceanic crust (i.e., what is it made of)?

1. Which rock makes up the majority of the ocean floor (i.e., makes the oceanic crust)?
2. Is this rock igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic?
3. This rock comprises (i.e., makes up) what percent of all the oceanic rock?
4. What is the **density** of oceanic crust?

1. What is the average **age** of oceanic crust?
2. How does oceanic crust form (i.e., created, born)?

**Differences between Oceanic and Continental Crust**

1. Compare and contrast oceanic crust with continental crust. Come up with as many answers as possible.

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| --- | --- |
| **Similarities** | **Differences** |
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1. Why is oceanic crust much younger than continental crust? Note: The answer is in how oceanic crust gets destroyed/recycled versus how continental crust gets recycled/destroyed.

1. Write at least one interesting fact that you learned during your investigation on crust.

**WS: Understanding the Crust**

Adapted Websites

Crust

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crust_(geology)>

Oceanic

<http://www.answers.com/mt/oceanic-crust>

<http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_the_composition_of_the_continental_crust#slide1>

Basalt

<http://www.answers.com/mt/basalt-rock>

Continental Crust

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/134877/continental-crust>

<http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_rock_makes_up_most_of_the_continent#slide2>

<http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_the_composition_of_the_continental_crust#slide1>

Granite

<http://www.answers.com/mt/granite-rock>