Geology: Basic Concepts of Geology

Exercise: 1

Instructions: Geology is the science that deals with understanding the physical history of the earth, the changes that the earth has undergone, and the rocks that make up the earth. There are many places throughout Idaho where one can find strong evidence of geologic activity. This exercise will give you the opportunity to learn about some of the basic concepts of geology. Answer the following questions using the Digital Atlas.

1. What is the rock record?

2. Does the rock record provide a complete history of the Earth? Why or why not?

3. Why do we depend on our ability to observe, describe, and record geologic phenomena to figure out the geologic history of an area?

4. How much (what percentage) of the earth's history is represented in the Phanerozoic Era? (HINT: visit the Geologic Time Line to calculate this percentage).

5. How might a region's geologic setting affect the rocks in that region?