**Mohamed Khider University of Biskra**

**Faculty of Letters and Languages**

**Section of English**

**Course**: Reading **Full name**: …………….....……………………

**Level:** First Year **Group:** ............

**The Ring of Fire**

T he Ring of Fire is an enormous chain of volcanoes all around the Pacific Ocean. The ring goes from New Zealand up to Asia and across the ocean to Alaska. From Alaska, the ring continues southward along the coast of both North and South America. More than seventy-five percent of the world’s volcanoes are located in this ring.

Scientists are interested in studying the Ring of Fire because they can observe plate tectonics at work there. In 1912, a German scientist, Alfred Wegener, came up with the first theory of land movement. Wegener said continents are made up of lighter rocks resting on heavier material. Similar to the way large things move while floating on water, Wegener suggested that the positions of the continents were not fixed, but that they moved slightly. Later, scientists discovered most of Wegener’s ideas were right on the mark. They then developed the theory called plate tectonics.

According to plate tectonics, the surface of the Earth consists of a number of enormous plates or sections of rock, each about eighty kilometers thick. The plates float and slowly move at speeds between one to ten centimeters every year. That is about the rate your fingernails grow! Within the Ring of Fire, new material for the Earth’s plates is constantly being created as hot liquid rock called magma flows from the center of the Earth up to the ocean floor. All the existing plates on the Earth’s surface have to move slightly to make room for the new material.

As plates move both away from and toward each other, they run into each other. When they hit each other, one plate might move under another. This process is called subduction. Subduction frequently causes earthquakes. It may also result in the bottom plate melting due to the extreme temperatures under the top plate. The magma created in this process can rise to the Earth’s surface and come out through volcanoes, as can be seen along the Ring of Fire.

**Source: Malarcher, C., & Janzen, A. (2010). *Reading Challenge 2(2nd ed).***

**Part One:** **Reading comprehension**

**A/ Choose the best answer. (5pts)**

**1.** What is the main focus of this reading?

1. The most active volcanoes found in the Ring of Fire
2. The location of the Ring of Fire
3. How the plates on the Earth’s surface move in different ways
4. How plate tectonics, volcanoes, and earthquakes are related

**2.** According to the reading, which is true about the Ring of Fire?

1. All of the volcanoes along the ring are active.
2. Most of the volcanoes on Earth are part of the ring.
3. The ring gets bigger each year.
4. The ring was discovered in the 20th century.

**3.** What does “subduction” mean in this reading?

1. Rocks moving under volcanoes
2. Erupting liquid rock
3. The theory of moving plates
4. Movement of a plate under another

**4.** What is NOT a result of shifting tectonic plates?

1. Earthquakes
2. Extreme temperatures inside the Earth
3. Volcanoes
4. Subduction

**5.** Which question is NOT answered in the reading?

1. How fast do tectonic plates move?
2. How thick are the plates in tectonic theory?
3. What is the most active volcano today?
4. Where is the Ring of Fire?

**B/ Vocabulary (3pts)**

**Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word or phrase.**

**a.** often **b.** is made of **c.** top; covering **d.** goes up

**e.** idea; assumed law in science **f.** steps toward achieving some result

**1.** \_\_\_\_ Earthquakes **frequently** occur in Japan.

**2.** \_\_\_\_ Scientists did not prove the **theory** yet, so many people don’t believe it.

**3.** \_\_\_\_ One idea says the **surface** of the Earth is covered by huge plates of land.

**4.** \_\_\_\_ Lava **rises** from under the Earth and comes out of volcanoes.

**5.** \_\_\_\_ The **process** of creating new land involves lava becoming solid rock.

**6.** \_\_\_\_ Lava **consists** of various kinds of rock melted together.

**C/ Idiomatic Expressions: (3pts)**

***/ run into / come up with / right on the mark /***

**Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.**

**1.** I finally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a good topic for my essay.

**2.** She frequently tries to guess people’s age, and most of the time she’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**3.** It’s important to drive carefully so you don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ anything.

**Part Two: Writing (9pts)**

**Use the appropriate words from the list below and fill in the gaps to make a short paragraph:**

***/ people / magma / made up / life / chain / scientists / houses / natural / television / Florida / spring / nobody / hurricane /***

A recent ......................................... disaster was a .......................................... I heard about the hurricane on .......................................... The hurricane hit ......................................... last .......................................... Lots of ......................................... fell down, but ......................................... died. After the hurricane, ......................................... fixed their houses and ......................................... went back to normal.

**Good Luck / Rmadan Kariim**