

Name _____

Plateaus, Mesas, and Mountains: Understanding the Differences

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Responsible tourism practices in mountainous regions can involve limiting visitor numbers, using designated trails, and educating tourists about respecting local ecosystems. Conservation efforts may include habitat restoration and monitoring to minimize the impact of human activities on fragile environments.
2. An archaeologist studying a mesa with ancient ruins would likely use archaeological excavation, carbon dating, pottery analysis, and other techniques to understand the historical significance of the site.
3. Plateaus play a crucial role in agriculture by providing flat and fertile terrain for farming. Their soil quality and accessibility to water sources make them ideal for crop cultivation.
4. Understanding the geological history and formation of these landforms is essential for land use planning because it helps assess the risks associated with potential geological hazards such as landslides, erosion, and earthquakes. It also informs decisions about infrastructure development and disaster preparedness.

