

Name _____

Carving the Earth: The Origins of Valleys and Canyons

Short Answer Key

1. Water contributes to valley and canyon formation through erosion by carrying sediment and cutting into the land, gradually deepening and widening the features.
2. Wind contributes to canyon formation in arid regions by eroding rocks and cliffs through the abrasive action of wind-blown sand and particles.
3. Glaciers create U-shaped valleys by slowly carving out the landscape as they advance and retreat. Moraines are formed by the deposition of glacial sediment.
4. One famous canyon is the Grand Canyon in the United States, known for its immense size and stunning geological features. It is a popular tourist attraction.
5. Valleys and canyons historically attracted human settlements due to their fertile soils, access to water, and natural beauty, which supported agriculture and provided essential resources.

