Canarygeog Worksheet

Glacial Landforms

1. Explain how corries are formed.
    a. Snow accumulates in a hollow at the top of a mountain.
    b. It turns into ice and begins to slide downhill (pulled by gravity)
    c. As it moves it rotates (rotational slippage)
    d. Freeze thaw causes the material in the hollow to loosen.
    e. The moving ice plucks and abrades the material from the sides of the hollow.
    f. The hollow gets deeper and wider.
    g. The back wall becomes very steep due to the erosion.
    h. The front suffers less erosion so a lip is formed.
    i. When the ice melts sometimes a lake is formed behind the lip.
2. Explain arêtes talking about the following points :
    a. What it looks like
    b. When it's formed
    c. Giving an example

    An arête is a sharp ridge.

    It forms when two corries form next to each other leaving a sharp ridge between them.

    An example is Striding Edge in the Lake District, U.K.
3. Explain pyramidal peaks talking about the following points :
    a. When it's formed
    b. Giving an example

    Pyramidal peaks are formed when three or more corries form next to each other.

    An example is Mt. Blanc in eastern France.
4. What is a glacial trough ?

    A glacial trough (u-shaped valley) is the eroded valley which is left by a glacier.
5. What is a hanging valley ?

    A hanging valley is a tributary valley that enters a main valley partly up the valley side.
6. What is a truncated spur ?

    The truncated spurts are the ends of interlocking spurs which have been cut off by the glacier.

7. What are misfit streams ?

   Misfit streams are small streams which flow in the bottom of a glacial trough (u-shaped valley)

8. What is a terminal moraine ?

   Terminal moraine is the material that is left behind as a ridge when the ice from the glacier melts, it also marks the furthest point reached by the glacier.

9. What is a ribbon lake ?

   Ribbon lakes form when water is trapped in a u-shaped valley (glacial trough) after the glacier has melted and retreated. They are usually formed behind terminal or recessional moraine. An example is Lake Windermere in the Lake District, U.K.

10. Scientists can study global warming by the terminal moraine, how ?

    Today most of the glaciers around the world are retreating as a result of global warming. This is so because we can see the terminal moraine some distance ahead of the glacier's snout which indicated that the glacier is no longer advances but is clearly retreating.