Chapter Two: Fire and Ice

Vocabulary Words

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| Vocabulary Word | Definition: |
| 1. abrasive | Smoothing out of rough surfaces |
| 2. aquifer | A layer of rock that holds water |
| 3. basalt | Gray or black fine-grained igneous rock; cooled lava rock |
| 4. cataracts | Large waterfalls over steep cliffs |
| 5.continental  drift | The theory that the Earth’s continents were one land mass and then drifted apart |
| 6. coulee | A dry streambed; a small shallow ravine |
| 7. decompose | To decay or rot |
| 8. deluge | A heavy rain |
| 9. dormant | Temporarily inactive |
| 10. erratics | Huge boulders carried long distances by glaciers |
| 11. fault  lines | Breaks in the earth’s crust, with displacement of earth and rock on one side |
| 12. fissure | A long crack in the Earth’s crust |
| 13. geologic  time | The long time period of the earth’s history as defined by scientists |
| 14. geologist | A scientist who studies rock and land formations to learn the history of the Earth |
| 15. igneous  rock | Rock that came from the interior of the Earth as lava |
| 16. lahars | Huge mudflows filled with volcanic debris, rock and water |
| 17. loess | Soil believed to be mainly deposited by the wind |
| 18. molten | Melted by high heat, as in liquid rock |
| 19. sedimentary | Rock formed from sand, soil, rocks, and shells |
| 20. tectonics | (A branch of geology) concerned with the crust of the Earth and its folds and faults. |