Name: _____

Earth Lesson 1

Date: _____

oceans	vents	volcanoes	runoff	dissolved
layer	down	salt	land	removed
through	minerals	rivers		

Oceans cover the Earth. In fact, _____ cover 70% of the Earth's surface and make up 97% of all the water on Earth. About 3.5% of the ocean is _____. That's about 120 million tons of salt per cubic mile of seawater. This means there are roughly 38.5 quadrillion tons of salt in the oceans. If the salt in the ocean could be _____ and spread evenly over the Earth's _____ surface, it would form a _____ more than 500 feet (166 meters) thick, about the height of a 40-story office building.

When the rain pours _____ the air, it collects carbon dioxide from the atmosphere on its way _____, turning the water slightly acidic. The rain erodes the rock, and the acids chemically break down the rocks and carry salts and minerals along in a dissolved state as ions. When water washes these ions into streams and _____, it's called runoff. The streams and rivers carry the salts and _____ into our oceans. Many of the ions are removed from the water by organisms, but most of the salt is left and has built up over time.

Rivers and surface _____ are not the only sources of _____ salts. Vents in the ocean floor also add salt to the ocean waters. Ocean water seeps down into the Earth's crust through cracks. This water is heated by the magma deep under the surface and dissolves salts and minerals from the rocks. The heated water builds up pressure and is released through the _____ in the ocean floor, delivering the salts and minerals into the ocean waters. The final source of salt in the ocean is underwater _____ erupting.