



ANSWER KEY

Exercise: 1

Instructions: The Great Rift system is a geological national landmark located in the Snake River Plain. This activity should make you more knowledgeable about this area and its geological significance.

1. What is the Great Rift System?

The Great Rift System is a group of north and northwest trending fractures that extend about 50 miles from the northern part of the eastern Snake River plain to the Snake River.

2. What is King's Bowl and how did it form?

King's Bowl is a large crater that stands directly over the main fracture of the Great Rift. It is the source of the King's Bowl Lava flow. Rocks can be found west of the crater that were blown from the vent.

3. What do all of the geological features that make up the Inferno Chasm Rift Zone have in common?

All the features that make up the Inferno Chasm Rift Zone are believed to be summit vents for coalescing lava shields.

4. How did Wild Horse Corral form?

Wild Horse Corral could have started as two separate eruptions that combined into a single large fissure vent. It formed a large irregular shaped depression that is now Wild Horse Corral.

5. Explain the formation of Split Butte.

Split Butte is thought to be a maar crater. There is a split in the upper layers on the East side of the butte. The split is believed to be caused by wind erosion.

6. Name another Great Rift zone that is located to the southeast of Idaho.

Another rift zone to the southeast of Idaho is the Rio Grande Rift.