

Read the text about a woman who has always been interested in rocks. Some words are missing from the text (1-11). Complete the text using one word in the spaces provided on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done for you.



## Becoming a Geologist

I have always loved rocks; even as a young girl, I loved to examine the rock faces on mountainsides, loved to collect unusual-looking rocks as I hiked along paths in the Alpine area I live in. (0) I was around ten or twelve, my mother gave me a book about identifying rocks, and I started organizing my collection. (1) Instead of grouping the rocks by appearance as I had (2) been doing, I attempted organization by geological category. I found this intriguing, even exciting. My rocks were revealing their families and their past. Rocks I had found in high valleys had once been at the (3) bottom of an ocean. Some rocks were the result of huge heat and pressure (4) when the earth's crust moved and volcanos formed. By looking at my rocks, I was looking (5) back through time, very far back, and I was looking at the result of extremely violent forces. As I sat in front of my silent collection of Alpine rocks, I tried to imagine, to feel their enormous age, even to hear the roar of volcanos pouring melted rock over a landscape.

After a while, (6) when, I noticed limitations in my collection. Some major categories of rocks were not in my collection (7) because certain kinds of rocks did not occur in the Alps. Perhaps even (8) more frustrating, my collection was completely lacking in the more spectacular examples of rock formations that did occur in the Alps but which I had not found. I had no large quartz crystals, no examples of the semi-precious, beautiful garnet. I started to plan hikes according to the possibility they offered of finding such stones. Garnets could be found in the Ötz valley, west of Innsbruck, but for quartz crystals, I (9) had to travel further west, to Switzerland. By the (10) time I was a university student, I had a rock collection that was so large it had its own room. When I later (11) became a member of the staff at the geology department of Innsbruck University, I donated my collection to the department. It is still there now.

Becoming a Geologist

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