

Homework for Precambrian History: The Archean Eon

Visit the website for the PBS show Savage Earth at

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/savageearth/hellscrust/html/sidebar2.html>

This is a web companion to a four-hour series on earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters. From this website, answer the following questions:

1. What are hydrothermal vents and how do they form?
2. What are black smokers?
3. What kinds of economically useful deposits have been found associated with black smokers?
4. What organisms are found around black smokers?
5. What is different about the organisms that live at the black smokers compared to more familiar life forms we know about?
6. Why do some scientists think that life might have originated near black smokers? See your text or other websites for help answering this question.