

Chapter 1 Introduction to Earth Science

Summary

1.1 What Is Earth Science?

☉ Earth science is the name for the group of sciences that deals with Earth and its neighbors in space.

- Geology means “study of Earth.” Geology is divided into physical geology and historical geology.
- Oceanography is the study of the Earth’s oceans, as well as coastal processes, seafloor topography, and marine life.
- Meteorology is the study of atmosphere and the processes that produce weather and climate.
- Astronomy is the study of the universe.

☉ The nebular hypothesis suggests that the bodies of our solar system evolved from an enormous rotating cloud called the solar nebula. It was made up mostly of hydrogen and helium, with a small percentage of heavier elements.

- Shortly after the Earth formed, melting occurred in the Earth’s interior. Gravity caused denser elements to sink to Earth’s center. Less dense elements floated toward the surface. As a result, Earth is made up of layers of materials that have different properties.

1.2 A View of Earth

☉ Earth can be thought of as consisting of four major spheres: the hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere.

- The hydrosphere is the water portion of Earth.
- The atmosphere is an envelope of gases that surrounds Earth.
- The geosphere is the layer of Earth under both the atmosphere and the oceans. It includes the core, the mantle, and the crust.
- The biosphere is made up of all life on Earth.

☉ Because the geosphere is not uniform, it is divided into three main parts based on differences in composition—the core, the mantle, and the crust.

- The core, Earth’s innermost layer, is located just below the mantle.
- The mantle is 2890 kilometers thick. It is located below the Earth’s crust and above the Earth’s core.
- The crust is the thin, rocky, outer layer of Earth.

☉ The theory of plate tectonics provided geologists with a model to explain how earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur and how continents move.

- Destructive forces wear away Earth’s surface.
- Constructive forces build up the Earth’s surface.
- Tectonic plates move constantly over the Earth’s mantle.

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Raffaela Di Napoli



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Prentice Hall Exploring Earth Science, 1997 Norman Hall's Asvab Preparation Book Norman Hall, 2015-01-02
Everything you need to know thoroughly covered in one book five ASVAB practice tests answer keys tips to boost scores
military enlistment information study aids **Earth Science: the Physical Setting** Paola Santagostino, Prentice Hall
(School Division), 2005 Focusing on the Earth Science content tested on the Regents Examination this thorough review guide
contains extensive vocabulary review questions and Memory Jogger and Digging Deeper features Hundreds of practice
questions organized in the Regents Examination format help students familiarize themselves with look and feel of the actual
exam Prentice Hall Science Explorer Michael J. Padilla, 2002 *Prentice Hall Chemistry*, 2000 Prentice Hall Science
, 1993 **Prentice Hall Physical Science Concepts in Action Program Planner National Chemistry Physics Earth
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Telecourse Study Guide for Sociology Pearson,James M. Henslin,Shelly Dutchin,2005-04 This student manual is for students who are using Sociology A Down to Earth Approach with the twenty two video programs in the Exploring Society series from Dallas TeleLearning Each section coordinates reading and video assignments and includes summaries learning objectives video outlines key terms and people and student application projects The Guide also provides a self test section containing multiple choice true false fill in matching and essay questions that correlate to the video programs as well as Henslin s text **Prentice Hall Exploring Life Science** Anthea Maton,1997 **Encyclopedia of Solid Earth**

Geophysics Harsh Gupta,2011-06-29 The past few decades have witnessed the growth of the Earth Sciences in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding of the planet that we live on This development addresses the challenging endeavor to enrich human lives with the bounties of Nature as well as to preserve the planet for the generations to come Solid Earth Geophysics aspires to define and quantify the internal structure and processes of the Earth in terms of the principles of physics and forms the intrinsic framework which other allied disciplines utilize for more specific investigations The first edition of the Encyclopedia of Solid Earth Geophysics was published in 1989 by Van Nostrand Reinhold publishing company More than two decades later this new volume edited by Prof Harsh K Gupta represents a thoroughly revised and expanded reference work It brings together more than 200 articles covering established and new concepts of Geophysics across the various sub disciplines such as Gravity Geodesy Geomagnetism Seismology Seismics Deep Earth Processes Plate Tectonics Thermal Domains Computational Methods etc in a systematic and consistent format and standard It is an authoritative and current reference source with extraordinary width of scope It draws its unique strength from the expert contributions of editors and authors across the globe It is designed to serve as a valuable and cherished source of information for current and future generations of professionals *Reading in the Content Area with Literature Connections* ,2000 **Objective First For**

Schools Practice Test Booklet with Answers and Audio CD Helen Chilton,Helen Tiliouine,2011-09-15 The Cambridge English First for Schools exam has the same format and level as the existing First Certificate in English exam but the content and treatment of topics are targeted at younger learners The Objective First for Schools Practice Test Booklet with answers provides two complete practice tests for the First for Schools exam The accompanying Audio CD contains the recorded

material for the listening component of the practice tests It is an ideal supplement to any First Certificate level material for those who would like to familiarise themselves with the format of the First for Schools exam **Holt General Science** William L. Ramsey,1988 **Applications and Investigations in Earth Science** Edward J. Tarbuck,Frederick K. Lutgens,Kenneth G. Pinzke,Dennis Tasa,2009 For the introductory Earth science lab course Although designed to accompany Tarbuck and Lutgens Earth ScienceandFoundations of Earth Science this manual could be used for any Earth Science lab course in conjunction with any text This versatile and adaptable collection of introductory level laboratory experiences goes beyond traditional offerings to examine the basic principles and concepts of the Earth sciences Widely praised for its concise coverage and dynamic illustrations by Dennis Tasa the text contains twenty two step by step exercises that reinforce major topics in geology oceanography meteorology and astronomy *Seismic Waves and Rays in Elastic Media* M.A. Slawinski,2003-08-04 This book seeks to explore seismic phenomena in elastic media and emphasizes the interdependence of mathematical formulation and physical meaning The purpose of this title which is intended for senior undergraduate and graduate students as well as scientists interested in quantitative seismology is to use aspects of continuum mechanics wave theory and ray theory to describe phenomena resulting from the propagation of waves The book is divided into three parts Elastic continua Waves and rays and Variational formulation of rays In Part I continuum mechanics are used to describe the material through which seismic waves propagate and to formulate a system of equations to study the behaviour of such material In Part II these equations are used to identify the types of body waves propagating in elastic continua as well as to express their velocities and displacements in terms of the properties of these continua To solve the equations of motion in anisotropic inhomogeneous continua the high frequency approximation is used and establishes the concept of a ray In Part III it is shown that in elastic continua a ray is tantamount to a trajectory along which a seismic signal propagates in accordance with the variational principle of stationary travel time **Earth Science** ,2001 **Matter** Prentice-Hall Staff,1994
Flying Magazine ,1982-06

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