

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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Lingjun Ying



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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 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 **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 Science**, 2003-11 Prentice Hall Physical Science Concepts in Action helps students make the important connection between the science they read and what they experience every day Relevant content lively explorations and a wealth of hands on activities take students understanding of science beyond the page and into the world around them Now includes even more technology tools and activities to support differentiated instruction **Resources for Teaching Middle School Science** Smithsonian Institution, National Academy of Engineering, National Science Resources Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, 1998-04-30 With age appropriate inquiry centered curriculum materials and sound teaching practices middle school science can capture the interest and energy of adolescent students and expand their understanding of the world around them Resources for Teaching Middle School Science developed by the National Science Resources Center NSRC is a valuable tool for identifying and selecting effective science curriculum materials that will engage students in grades 6 through 8 The volume describes more than 400 curriculum titles that are aligned with the National Science Education Standards This completely new guide follows on the success of Resources for Teaching Elementary School Science the first in the NSRC series of annotated guides to hands on inquiry centered curriculum materials and other resources for science teachers The curriculum materials in the new guide are grouped in five chapters by scientific area Physical Science Life Science Environmental Science Earth and Space Science and Multidisciplinary and Applied Science They are also grouped by type core materials supplementary units and science activity books Each annotation of curriculum material includes a recommended grade level a description of the activities involved and of what students can be expected to learn a list of accompanying materials a reading level and ordering information The curriculum materials included in this book were selected by panels of teachers and scientists using evaluation criteria developed for the guide The criteria reflect and incorporate goals and principles of the National Science Education Standards The annotations designate the specific content standards on which these curriculum pieces focus In addition to the curriculum chapters the guide contains six chapters of diverse resources that are directly relevant to middle school science Among these is a chapter

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