

Disciplinary Core Ideas

Earth and Space Sciences



ESS1— EARTH’S PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

What is the universe, and what is Earth’s place in it?

ESS1.A: THE UNIVERSE AND ITS STARS: *What is the universe, and what goes on in stars?*

ESS1.B: EARTH AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM: *What are the predictable patterns caused by Earth’s movement in the solar system?*

ESS1.C: THE HISTORY OF PLANET EARTH: *How do people reconstruct and date events in Earth’s planetary history?*

ESS2—EARTH’S SYSTEMS

How and why is Earth constantly changing?

ESS2.A: EARTH MATERIALS AND SYSTEMS: *How do Earth’s major systems interact?*

ESS2.B: PLATE TECTONICS AND LARGE-SCALE SYSTEM INTERACTIONS: *Why do the continents move, and what causes earthquakes and volcanoes?*

ESS2.C: THE ROLES OF WATER IN EARTH’S SURFACE PROCESSES: *How do the properties and movements of water shape Earth’s surface and affect its systems?*

ESS2.D: WEATHER AND CLIMATE: *What regulates weather and climate?*

ESS2.E: BIOGEOLOGY: *How do living organisms alter Earth’s processes and structures?*

ESS3—EARTH AND HUMAN ACTIVITY

How do Earth’s surface processes and human activities affect each other?

ESS3.A: NATURAL RESOURCES: *How do humans depend on Earth’s resources?*

ESS3.B: NATURAL HAZARDS: *How do natural hazards affect individuals and societies?*

ESS3.C: HUMAN IMPACTS ON EARTH SYSTEMS: *How do humans change the planet?*

ESS3.D: GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: *How do people model and predict the effects of human activities on Earth’s climate?*

