



Fifth Grade Science

Earth Systems

Dear Families,

Here is what your child is learning in Fifth Grade, during the study of Earth Systems with some specific ways you can help.

Earth Systems: Students need to:

- Identify the essential components of the four earth systems.
- Describe how the four major earth systems interact.
- Model the interactions of the earth systems.
- Understand a major earth system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions
- Explain why is freshwater is important and where humans can find freshwater.
- Understand that most freshwater is in glaciers or underground; only a tiny fraction is in streams, lakes, wetlands, and the atmosphere.
- Identify the positive and negative effects on the environment as a result of human activity.
- Understand that individuals and communities are doing things to help protect earth's resources and environments using scientific ideas.

Key Vocabulary

Geosphere- Earth's crust, both beneath the oceans and continents, as well as the mantle and inner and outer core

Hydrosphere- all of the water on, under, and above the Earth

Atmosphere- the layers of gases that surround a planet

Biosphere- that part of Earth in which life can exist

System- a group of related objects that work together to perform a function

Ecosystem- all the living and nonliving things in an area that interact with each other

Glacier- a large mass of ice resting on, or overlapping, a land surface

Interact- to act on one another (related word: interaction)

Organisms- any individual living thing

Water cycle (evaporation, precipitation, condensation) - the continual movement of water between the land, ocean, and the air

Reservoir- amount of something (water) available at any given time

Ground water- water stored below Earth's surface in soil and rock layers

Natural resources- resources that are obtained from the earth

Environment- all the living and nonliving things that surround an organism

Ways FAMILIES Can Help

- Use the Discovery Education link to find more information about the Geosphere, Biosphere, Atmosphere, and Hydrosphere ([see the following page for log-in information](#)).
- Make a mini-water cycle using recyclable materials.
- Build your own terrarium from recyclable materials in your home.
- Find ways that your community is protecting or conserving water.
- Visit a water filtration plant.
- Build a rain garden for your community.
- Keep track of your family water use and see what you can change to conserve water.
- Find examples of erosion in your yard or community.