



# 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.