

SAAVAS Topic 5 School to Home Letter

Dear Family Member or Caregiver,

In the Topic “Patterns on Earth”, students learn about patterns on Earth. The experiences in this topic are:

- Experience 1: Water Cycle and Weather
- Experience 2: Slow Changes to Earth
- Experience 3: Natural Resources and Conservation

First, in Experience 1, they learn about Earth’s water cycle and differentiate between weather and climate. Then, in Experience 2, they identify the processes of weathering, erosion, and deposition. Finally, in Experience 3, they explore renewable and nonrenewable natural resources.

The main content TEKS covered in this topic are:

- 4.10A: Describe and illustrate the continuous movement of water above and on the surface of Earth through the water cycle and explain the role of the Sun as a major source of energy in this process.
- 4.10B: Model and describe slow changes to Earth’s surface caused by weathering, erosion, and deposition from water, wind, and ice.
- 4.10C: Differentiate between weather and climate.
- 4.11A: Identify and explain advantages and disadvantages of using Earth’s renewable and nonrenewable natural resources such as wind, water, sunlight, plants, animals, coal, oil, and natural gas.
- 4.11B: Explain the critical role of energy resources to modern life and how conservation, disposal, and recycling of natural resources impact the environment.
- 4.11C: Determine the physical properties of rocks that allow Earth’s natural resources to be stored there.

And the main SEPS and Recurring Themes and Concepts TEKS are:

- 4.3A: Develop explanations and propose solutions supported by data and models.
- 4.5G: Explain how factors or conditions impact change in systems.

One of the best ways for students to check on their learning is to explain it to someone else. Ask your student about their class experiences and ask them to explain the content that they are learning while at school in their own words or, if relevant, in their first language.