

CFISD Earth Systems Science Course Scope and Sequence (2026–2027)

Course Description

The Earth Systems Science course is designed to build on students' prior scientific and academic knowledge and skills to develop their understanding of Earth's systems. These systems (the atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere) interact through time to produce the Earth's landscapes, climate, and resources. Students explore the geologic history of individual dynamic systems through the flow of energy and matter, their current states, and how these systems affect and are affected by human use.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills: [Earth Systems Science](#)

First Semester (80 Days)

1st Grading Period (Aug. 12 – Oct. 8, 2026)

Unit	Title	Date Range	Days**
Unit 1	Intro to Earth & Space Science (Course Introductions, Chapters 1 and 23)	Aug. 12 – 31, 2026	14
Unit 2A	Internal Processes (Chapters 7 - 8)	Sept. 2 – 18, 2026	13
Unit 2B	Internal Processes (Chapters 9 -11)	Sept. 18 – Oct. 8, 2026	14

2nd Grading Period (Oct. 19 – Dec. 18, 2026)

Unit	Title	Date Range	Days**
Unit 3	Earth Materials & Geologic Time (Chapter 5) Minerals and Energy Resources (Chapter 6)	Oct. 19 – Nov. 13, 2026	19
Unit 4A	Surface Processes (Chapters 12 and 3)	Nov. 16 – Dec. 11, 2026	15
	Review and Final Exams	Dec. 12 – 18, 2026	5

Second Semester (93 Days)

3rd Grading Period (Jan. 5 – Mar. 11, 2027)

Unit	Title	Date Range	Days**
Unit 4B	Surface Processes (Chapters 13 - 14)	Jan. 5 – Feb. 5, 2027	23
Unit 5	The Hydrosphere (Chapters 15 - 17)	Feb. 8 – Mar. 11, 2027	23

4th Grading Period (Mar. 22 – May 27, 2027)

Unit	Title	Date Range	Days**
Unit 6A	The Atmosphere (Chapters 18 - 19)	Mar. 22 – Apr. 16, 2027	19
Unit 6B	The Atmosphere (Chapter 20) Climate and Climate Change (Chapter 21)	Apr. 19 – May 20, 2027	23
	Review and Final Exams	May 21 – 27, 2027	5

References:

**The length of each unit is a specific number of days, but it is understood that there is a range of +/- a day. The purpose of the flexibility is meant to allow teachers the opportunity to plan for the needs of their students and to accommodate re-teaching or review when necessary. If pre-assessment indicates student mastery could be obtained in a fewer number of days, the additional time could be used for extension or carried into the next unit.

Instructional Material(s):

National Geographic Earth Systems, Texas Edition

Authors: Hendrix, Thompson, Turk

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