

SREB

SREB Readiness Courses  
*Transitioning to college and careers*

# Ready for High School: Literacy

## Science Unit 1

What will the Earth look like  
in 1 million years?

*Informational Text*

Southern  
Regional  
Education  
Board

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# Unit 1

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## Unit 1

# Content: Informational Text

### Course Overview

In this unit, students will apply the concepts of disciplinary literacy to science in order to learn how to approach reading and writing as a scientist. Students will focus on Earth Science, specifically processes that change the surface of the Earth over time, as they learn skills and strategies that will allow them to access the texts and make meaning of the content. Students will learn how scientists approach vocabulary using Greek and Latin root words. They will access multiple texts to gain understanding of a complex scientific process in order to construct an explanation. They will practice transforming information from text to diagram, a skill very important in understanding science texts. Students will participate in an inquiry activity in which they will model various processes that can alter the surface of the Earth, as well as develop their own model of a process they research. An important skill in science literacy is the ability to analyze large bodies of data, so students will learn strategies to do that, as well as to look for trends such as cause and effect. Also, in preparation for science at the high school level, students will learn study strategies for approaching science tests. The unit culminates in a writing task in which students synthesize what they have learned about processes that change the Earth's surface, in order to make a prediction about what the surface of the Earth will look like in 1 million years. They will support their prediction with evidence from the texts and activities used throughout the unit.

### Teacher Notes

1. At the end of every lesson in this unit you will find a **checklist** of the important activities to cover. Refer to this as you teach the unit, as a way to ensure that the essential parts of the lesson have been covered.
2. **Literacy Design Collaborative** – If you have been trained in the framework known as the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC), instructional modules consist of a series of skill clusters with specific skills attributed to each. These units have been constructed to comply with this model. In each lesson you will see the specific clusters identified along with specific skills as a reference for LDC-trained teachers. If you have not been trained in LDC, merely follow the Teacher Guide instructions. The skill clusters can reinforce for you what reading and writing skills have been identified.
3. Each activity is accompanied by a formative or summative **assessment**. Most assessments consist of a rubric that identifies an observable action by students and a range of student performance (No, Somewhat and Yes). As the teacher, you have control over what value to ascribe to the assessments. For example you may assign a 6 for a student's successful completion of a task (Yes), 3 for a performance that approaches success (Somewhat) and a 0 if the student does not exhibit this

behavior (No). You may use the points in between 3 and 6 and 0 and 3 to provide a range of points based on how well the student's performance meets your expectations. Keep a log of your students and assign points throughout the unit as a grade for participation, engagement, etc. You may also wish to assign your own values to the assessment to provide a range based on varied performance. This system allows for flexibility in teacher grading practices across schools and states. Most teachers have expressed a need to provide points as incentives for the struggling students to complete the work. Because students struggle with the rigor of the course, the performance points along the way help to reward students who put forth effort in each activity. In the end, how the performance is "scored" is a teacher decision.

### Unit Objectives (Students Will Be Able To)

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1. Make observations and inferences that lead to inquiry questions that will guide research.
2. Make meaning of scientific terminology using root words and discipline-specific vocabulary strategies.
3. Synthesize information from multiple texts in order to construct explanations of complex processes.
4. Transform information from text to diagram to animation in order to make meaning.
5. Conduct inquiry investigations to deepen understanding of scientific processes.
6. Analyze data in order to draw conclusions.
7. Develop study strategies needed to be successful on high school science tests.
8. Analyze case studies to determine cause and effect, an important theme in science.
9. Synthesize learning in order to make predictions for the future.

### Suggested Pacing

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<b>Week 1</b>	Lesson: 1	Gateway Activity
	Lesson: 2	Making Sense of Science
<b>Week 2</b>	Lesson: 3	Developing Explanations
<b>Week 3</b>	Lesson: 4	Transforming Information
	Lesson: 5	Inquiry in Weathering and Erosion
<b>Week 4</b>	Lesson: 5	Inquiry in Weathering and Erosion
	Lesson: 6	Analyzing Data
<b>Week 5</b>	Lesson: 7	Taking Tests in Science
	Lesson: 8	Analyzing Cause and Effect
<b>Week 6</b>	Lesson: 9	Synthesizing Information to Make Predictions

## Lesson 1

# Gateway Activity

### Overview

In this lesson, students will be introduced to the concept of a changing Earth. In this gateway activity, students will be introduced to key scientific practices — observation, inference, and questioning. They will develop these skills with an anchoring activity to begin the lesson, and then apply those skills as they view reconstructive maps of the Earth over the last 500 million years. Students will make careful observations, inferences, and most importantly, questions that will lead them to the content they will discover throughout this unit. The skills of observation, inference, and questioning are important in science literacy as they are oftentimes the critical lens by which scientists approach texts – identifying key observations, analyzing inferences, and questioning how this information relates to the current understanding.

In this lesson, students will also be introduced to the unit culminating writing project in which they will make a prediction about what the Earth will look like in 1 million years. They will work throughout this unit to understand how the Earth has changed in the past, as introduced in the gateway activity, so that they may apply that understanding in order to make a sound prediction with evidence supporting for the future.

### Outcomes

1. Students develop scientific practices of observation, inference, and questioning.
2. Students observe reconstructed maps of the Earth over time to make inferences regarding ways in which the Earth has changed over time.
3. Students develop questions elicited through observations and inferences about ways in which the Earth can change.
4. Students categorize questions into research topics that they need to investigate throughout the unit.
5. Students review the unit as a whole, as well as the culminating project, and discuss the implications for learning science in this course and beyond.
6. Students understand the components of the culminating project.

## College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)

### Reading

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- 2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- 3 Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.
- 4 Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6–8 texts and topics.
- 5 Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to an understanding of the topic.
- 7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).

### Writing

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- 2a Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- 4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- 7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

LDC

Skills Activity List

### Skill Cluster 1: Preparing for the Task

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#### Task Engagement:

- 1 Ability to connect the task and new learning to existing knowledge, skills, experiences, interests and concerns

#### Task Analysis:

- 1 Ability to understand and explain the task prompt and rubric

### Skill Cluster 3: Transition to Writing

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#### Organizing Thinking:

- 1 Ability to organize notes for writing

**Materials**

- Tracks image  
<http://mariakasmirli.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Tracks.jpg>
- “Earth Through History” PowerPoint  
(Images for observing the changing Earth)  
<http://cpgeosystems.com/nam.html>
- Chart paper and markers

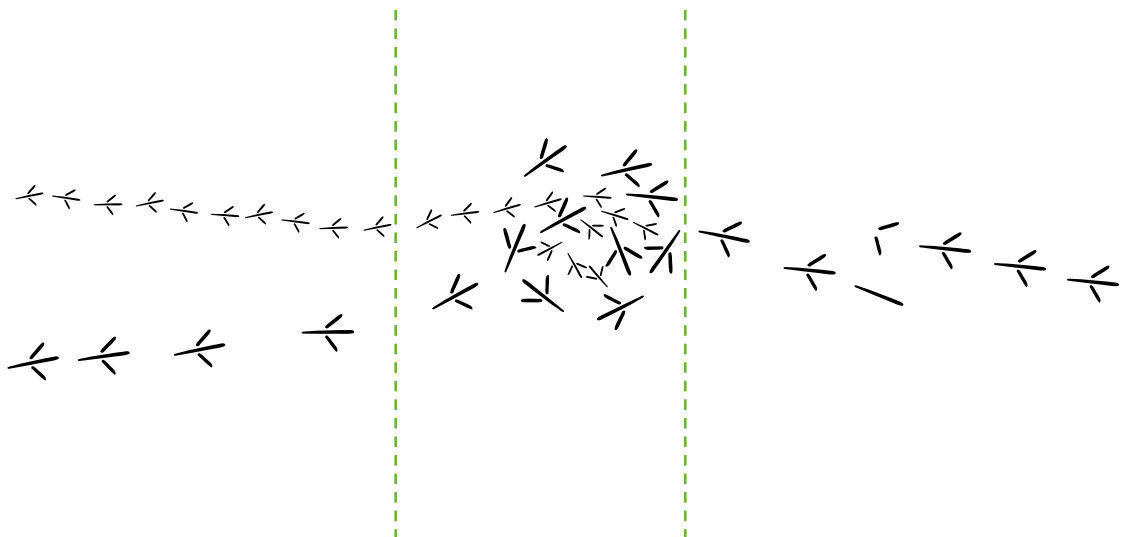
**Time Frame:** 100 minutes**Targeted Vocabulary**

Observation

Inference

**Activity One****Observation vs. Inference (15 minutes)****College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 3, 8**

In this activity, students will distinguish between an observation and an inference. Show the student the tracks image, one section at a time (as delineated by the dashed lines across the image dividing it into three sections), and ask them to write as many observations as possible in the space provided in the Academic Notebook. Ask students to share their observations one section at a time. As they share their observations, ask, **are your statements truly observations, or rather if they are inferences. How do you know the difference?** This provides a teachable moment regarding the difference between a true observation, and an inference. Discuss the definition of an observation and an inference. Ask, **what is different or the same about the two definitions?** Explain to students that many people represent inferences as observations, based on underlying assumptions. Ask them to reflect on the scientific accuracy of this practice, and why it might be important in science to clearly identify observations versus inferences.



## Assessment

### Outcome 1:

Students develop scientific practices of observation, inference, and questioning.

Evaluation Rubric			
Clearly distinguishes between observations and inferences, and understands the importance of this distinction.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>3</b>		

### Activity Two

### A Changing Earth: Observing, Inferring, Questioning (35 minutes)

#### College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 7

Show students the “Earth Through History” PowerPoint illustrating the reconstructed maps of the Earth over the last 500 million years, as presented on the provided website. Do not give background information about what the images represent, but rather, allow students to view the progression of images and develop their own understanding that they are viewing North America at different point in Earth’s history. **Ask students to make careful observations of the Earth’s topography, as well as water and land mass locations, in their Academic Notebooks on page 7.** After they have made observations on all images, **ask students to complete the second column in the chart in which they infer what has happened from one image to the next.** Allow students time to share their observations and inferences with a partner. **Ask each partner group to share out examples of their observations and corresponding inference.** Next, ask **students to work with their partner to brainstorm a list of questions that these images, and their own observations and inferences elicit.** Students should list these questions in the final column in their Academic Notebooks. These questions will be used as inquiry questions that will guide their learning throughout this unit as they examine the changing Earth.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 8

### Earth Throughout History

As you view the images of Earth throughout history, make notes using the following graphic organizer.

Observations	Inferences	Questions



## Assessment

### Outcome 2:

Students observe reconstructed maps of the Earth over time to make inferences regarding ways in which the Earth has changed over time.

### Outcome 3:

Students develop questions elicited through observations and inferences about ways in which the Earth can change.

Evaluation Rubric			
Makes thoughtful observations and inferences as he or she views images from the “Earth Throughout History” PowerPoint.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Creates an exhaustive list of questions that arise after viewing the images from the “Earth Throughout History” PowerPoint.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>12</b>		

### Activity Three

### Categorizing Questions to Guide Inquiry (20 minutes)

#### College and Career Readiness Standards: Writing – 2a, 4, 7

Lead students through a small-group activity in which students sort the questions brainstormed in Activity Two in order to categorize and consolidate them into 4-6 major research questions. **Begin by posing the essential question for the unit: “What will Earth look like in 1 million years?” on page 9.** Explain to students that their task in this activity is to create 4–6 guiding inquiry questions that will help them answer the overall essential questions. Divide students into groups of four. Ask students to share their individual list of questions from their Academic Notebooks with their small group. Ask students to look for any repeated questions in their four individual lists. Then, ask students if there are any questions that are similar or related to the same overall concept/topic. Ask, **What are some of the characteristics of good inquiry questions?** Answers may include: clear, relevant to the overarching essential question of the unit, multiple possible answers exist, cannot be answered without careful research (and answers have to be more than simple facts), able to be researched and answerable. Based on these criteria, and the questions they have narrowed their lists to, ask students to create 4-6 guiding inquiry questions that they think will best guide them to answering the unit essential question, “What will Earth look like in 1 million years?” Students should write their questions on page 9 in their Academic Notebooks. Students will likely ask questions such as:

- What is the Earth composed of? Has that changed throughout its history?
- How do continents move?
- How does Earth’s surface change?
- How does Earth’s atmosphere change?

**Discuss the guiding inquiry questions as a class to collectively decide on 4–6**

**questions.** Prompt students to record those questions in their Academic Notebooks. Point out the reflection table included, in which students will add notes to after each lesson in preparation for the final writing task.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 9

**Unit Essential Question:** What will the Earth look like in 1 million years?

**Unit Culminating Task: Prediction Essay**

After researching informational texts on factors that change the Earth's surface, create a model of what the earth will look like in 1 million years, and write an essay in which you argue the validity of your model. Support your discussion with evidence from the texts.

**Ask students to write down their initial reaction to the prompt on page 10 of the Academic Notebook — What does the prompt ask me to do? What do I have to do to be successful? Where will I find evidence to support my prediction?** After the students have written some items, have them share with each other, then lead a class discussion on their findings. Next, ask the students to look at the scoring rubric for the project located in the back of their Academic Notebooks on page 101. Divide the students into groups of 3-4 and assign each group one of the four criteria (There can be multiple groups with the same criterion.) Ask each group to restate the indicators for a score of “3” in their own words as if they were explaining this indicator to other students in the class. Students should use page 11 in the Academic Notebook for planning. Have the students post their rewritten indicator and explain it to the class. These can remain posted around the room to help guide students through the unit and the writing of their final project.

**Now that you have been introduced to the unit as a whole and the culminating writing task, you will use this graphic organizer to reflect on your learning at the end of each lesson and to consider how what you learned may help you in making a prediction for the future.**

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK pp 12-13

Lesson	What processes have shaped the Earth's surface in the past?	How might these processes impact what the Earth may look like in 1 million years?
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

### Assessment

**Outcome 4:**

Students categorize questions into research topics that they need to investigate throughout the unit.

**Outcome 6:**

Students understand the components of the culminating project.

Evaluation Rubric			
Writes reaction to the prompt and shares with the class.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Participates in rewriting the criterion indicator in his or her own words.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Works collaboratively in small groups to narrow/ categorize questions into 4–6 guiding inquiry questions.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>18</b>		

## Activity Four

## Title: Introduction to the Unit and Culminating Task (30 minutes)

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 2, 4, 5, 7**

After students' interest has been piqued in the gateway activities, it is important at this point to introduce the purpose of this unit and how the approach to learning science will be different from what they are perhaps used to in a science class. Give a brief introduction to the unit culminating writing task. **Explain to students that in this unit they will learn both science content and reading and writing strategies to help them learn that content.** They will also learn about disciplinary literacy, which is the set of specialized that scientists use. The goal of this unit is to help students prepare for college and career readiness in science.

**In pairs, ask students to discuss the following questions:**

- 1. What are some of some of the problems/challenges you have had learning science in the past?**
- 2. What do you think students need to know to learn science?**

Discuss student responses as a whole class. **Make sure that students understand that** learning science is not “smarts” or some innate talent.

**In general, students need to have some prior knowledge of science, an understanding of the way science is conducted, and some effective ways to read, write, and understand science. These effective strategies are a part of learning disciplinary literacy in science. In this unit we will learn a variety of ways to make science learning more effective.**

**Ask students to open their Academic Notebooks:**

**Turn to the course overview on page 3.** Let's read these first two paragraphs together. (Read aloud)

**FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 3****Course Overview**

Welcome to the first disciplinary literacy science unit of the SREB Readiness Course — Ready for High School: Literacy. What does disciplinary literacy in science mean? According to Shanahan & Shanahan (2012), disciplinary literacy refers to the specialized skills and strategies needed to learn at higher levels in each discipline. That means that how people approach reading and writing in the sciences would differ from how they approach it in history, English, mathematics, or other fields. It also means that students need to learn more than the content in any particular discipline — they also need to learn how reading and writing are used within that field. So, disciplinary literacy in science in this unit will introduce you to the knowledge, skills, and tools used by scientists.

You will learn to “make explicit connections among the language of science, how science concepts are rendered in various text forms, and resulting science knowledge” by learning ways to “develop the proficiencies needed to engage in science inquiry, including how to read, write, and reason with the language, texts, and dispositions of science” (Pearson, Moje, Greenleaf, 2010). These ideas are

the principal focus of this unit. While certainly the content covered in this course is important, a primary purpose of this unit is to equip you with the tools necessary to be more successful in your college coursework. You will take part in many reading and writing activities aimed at improving your disciplinary literacy in science. To that end, the creators of the course have developed this Academic Notebook.

**Let's examine a complex sentence in depth.**

First, let's examine this statement: "[Literacy in science] makes explicit connections among the language of science, how science concepts are rendered in various text forms, and resulting science knowledge."

**Let's unpack this sentence.** What does explicit connections mean? What do you think the language of science deals with? How does it differ from the language of, say, history or mathematics? What are they talking about when they say that science concepts are rendered in various text forms? What does the word "rendered" mean? What kinds of these text forms have you encountered before (diagrams, charts, animations, etc.)? Why does this result in scientific knowledge?

**Let's think about what we just did there.** How did focusing on this complex sentence impact your understanding? How does this differ from ways you have read in the past? (Skimming, reading but not really focusing or comprehending. This time I really had to pay attention). This unpacking of ideas and reading parts more than one time is a way to do "close reading," a strategy we will use throughout this unit.

**Some of disciplinary ways that science is written and represented can make it a challenge, however.** So before we start this unit, let's talk about two common science writing practices to look for in science text: Long noun phrases and multiple representations.

Long noun phrases: **Ask students to find the noun in the following sentence.**

- Glass crack growth rate is associated with applied stress magnitude.

(Students might say "glass" but the first noun is actually a noun phrase — glass crack growth rate.)

Then ask them to find the second noun phrase (applied stress magnitude)

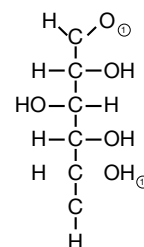
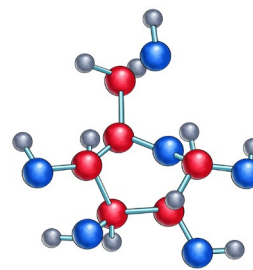
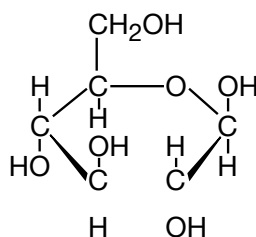
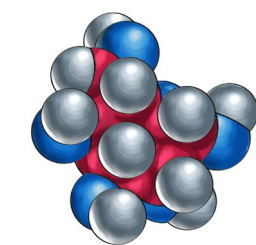
**Science is filled with these noun phrases that help with the precision of ideas that are very important to scientists. Some other examples to share are:**

- **gene replacement therapy**
- **primate genome sequences**
- **the polymerase chain reaction laboratory technique**

**Being able to identify entire concepts by using a noun phrase is an essential skill for reading science and a skill we will continue to work on.**

**Now let's take a look at the four molecules in your notebook on page 14. What do these images have in common?**

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 14

**What do these images have in common?**

Students may identify that these are all the same molecule (glucose). Discuss briefly why one might find all of these depictions within a single science textbook.

**Space filling models** are used to show how much room a molecule occupies.

**Ball and stick models** can help us understand bond patterns and we can pinpoint exactly which atoms are bonded or non-bonded.

The other two figures show the structural formula of the molecule. The one on the right is showing the structural formula (notice how it shows the carbon “backbone”) and the one on the left (that looks like a ring) is showing the condensed structure of glucose.

**There is no one “right” way to represent molecules: which type a scientist uses depends on what he or she is trying to portray. However, students need to be able to see that they are all representing the same thing. You also need to be able to transform the information into other forms (for example, you should be able to view the molecule and write out the chemical structure). In this unit we will learn several ways to transform science information from visual to text and back again.**

**Now, let’s take a look at the rest of the Academic Notebook to help familiarize you with how you will use it in this unit.**

**Turn to the table of contents.** You will see that there are nine lessons in this unit, but know that some are longer than others. The entire unit will span six weeks.

**You will have an exam during Lesson 7 – I want to be very clear that this will be a science exam, not a strategies exam. That means that even though we are learning reading and writing strategies for learning sciences, the exam will assess how well you learned the science – there will not be any questions about the strategies themselves.**

The work in the unit will build your scientific understanding of the processes that can change the Earth over time. You will apply this understanding by answering the unit essential question, “What will the Earth look like in 1 million years?” You will synthesize your understanding of Earth processes to make your prediction, using evidence and rationale from information you learned throughout the unit to support your argument.

**How might the inquiry questions you created earlier in this lesson help you to make this prediction?**

**Now, turn to the section about the purpose of the notebook on page 4: What is the purpose?** 1. Tools and information for learning, 2. Place to record work, 3. Assessment tool — **it will be collected periodically for grading.**

**Now, return to Lesson 1 in your Academic Notebook on page 15.** Pair up with a partner and take turns rreading to each other this short article from *Science Daily* on how scientists think.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 15

### How Scientists Think: Fostering Creativity In Problem Solving

Sep. 22, 2009 — Profound discoveries and insights on the frontiers of science do not burst out of thin air but often arise from incremental processes of weaving together analogies, images, and simulations in a constrained fashion. In cutting-edge science, problems are often ill-defined and experimental data are limited.

To develop an understanding of the system under investigation, scientists build real-world models and make predictions with them. The models are tentative at first, but over time they are revised and refined, and can lead the community to novel problem solutions. Models, thus, play a big role in the creative thinking processes of scientists.

Dr. Nancy J. Nersessian has studied the cognitive processes that underlie scientific creativity by observing scientists at work in their laboratories. She says, “Solving problems at the frontiers of science involves complex cognitive processes. In reasoning with models, part of the process occurs in the mind and part in the real-world manipulation of the model. The problem is not solved by the scientist alone, but by the scientist – model combination. This is a highly creative cognitive process.” Her research is published in an upcoming issue of *Topics in Cognitive Science*.

Her study of the working methods of scientists helps in understanding how class and instructional laboratory settings can be improved to foster creativity, and how new teaching methods can be developed based on this understanding. These methods will allow science students to master model-based reasoning approaches to problem solving and open the field to many more who do not think of themselves as traditional “scientists.”

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/09/090921162150.htm>

**Let’s talk about how this information can help us in thinking about science**

**learning.** If you had to pick only one word from this short article that you think is the most important, what would it be? Take a minute to think and write you word on a post-it note.

Post all words around the room. Ask students to examine all the words to select two that relate — they do NOT have to select their original word. Ask students to explain their choices to a partner, discussing why they think these words are the most important from this selection. Then ask them to write out their reasoning underneath the article in their Academic Notebooks.

Discuss the ways students were asked to think about learning science in this lesson:

- What did you learn about science learning that you did not know before?
- How do you think learning disciplinary strategies for reading and writing in science will help you in this course and beyond?
- How can developing focused inquiry questions help to guide your learning and lead you to synthesize information in order to make predictions about the future?

## Assessment

### Outcome 5:

Students review the unit as a whole, as well as the culminating project, and discuss the implications for learning science in this course and beyond.

Evaluation Rubric			
Participates in class discussion and reflects upon ways he or she will be thinking about science learning throughout this unit.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>6</b>		

### Teacher Checklist

Use this list to ensure that you have completed all of the lesson components.

1. Showed students the “Tracks” image one section at a time and had students make observations individually.
2. Led discussion in which students shared their observations, and clarified the difference between an observation and an inference, noting the importance in that distinction between the two.
3. Showed students the “Earth Through History” PowerPoint, prompting them to make observations and inferences as they view images of the Earth from 500 million years ago to the present.
4. Prompted students to brainstorm an exhaustive list of questions derived from their observations and inferences.
5. Grouped students to do a question sort in order to narrow to 4–6 guiding inquiry questions.
6. Introduced the unit purpose and task to students.
7. Introduced the culminating task and checked for student understanding.
8. Discussed the ways students are asked to think about learning in science throughout this unit.



## Lesson 2

# Making Sense of Science

### Overview

One of the first obstacles that students face in their science classroom is learning all of the discipline-specific vocabulary. Whether students are reading a science textbook or a science article, or looking at a science website, they will come into contact with vocabulary that will be essential to their understanding of the material. Learning simple strategies and having multiple opportunities to use the vocabulary will help students develop a deep understanding of the content being presented to them. This understanding will help them be able to explain concepts when speaking and writing.

### Outcomes

1. Students learn how to approach discipline-specific vocabulary.
2. Students describe the discipline-specific vocabulary using a science diagram.

## College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)

### Reading

- 4 Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context *relevant to grades 6-8 texts and topics*.
- 7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).

### Writing

- 1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- 2d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- 10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

LDC

Skills Activity List

### Skill Cluster 2: The Reading Process

**Essential Vocabulary:**

- 1 Ability to identify and master terms essential to understanding of a text
- 2 Ability to locate and understand scientific words and phrases that identify key concepts and facts, processes, or information

**Multiple Representations:**

- 1 Ability to read texts using multiple representations including diagrams, charts, tables, models, oral and written text

### Skill Cluster 3: Transition to Writing

**Bridging:**

- 1 Ability to move smoothly from reading to writing

**Materials**

- Any science textbook (or a copy of a chapter from a science textbook. Ask students to bring their science text to class for the lesson.)
- Earth’s Atmosphere handout  
[www.space.com/17683-earth-atmosphere.html](http://www.space.com/17683-earth-atmosphere.html)
- Earth’s Layers handout  
<http://utahscience.oremjr.alpine.k12.ut.us/sciber00/7th/earth/sciber/erlayers.htm>
- Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes handout  
<http://www.cforks.org/Downloads/RootWords.pdf>
- Vocabulary Template (13 copies for each student) located on page 21 of the Academic Notebook
- Diagram handout (In the Academic Notebook)  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/tryit/tectonics/intro.html>  
[http://ete.cet.edu/gcc/?/volcanoes\\_layers/](http://ete.cet.edu/gcc/?/volcanoes_layers/)

**Time Frame:** 100 minutes

**Targeted Vocabulary:**

Asthenosphere	Exosphere	Plasticity
Atmosphere	Lithosphere	Stratosphere
Convection	Mantle	Thermosphere
Core	Mesosphere	Troposphere
Crust		

## Activity One

## Understanding Science Vocabulary (70 minutes)

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 4, 7**

Students will need a science textbook for this activity. Make sure they have access to one or two copies of a chapter from one. Any grade-level science textbook would be appropriate for this lesson. Ask students to examine any chapter in their science textbook and the two diagrams on pages 25 and 26 in the Academic Notebook. Call on several students to share what aspects of the text and handouts stood out for them. Students will probably mention bolded headings, bolded or italicized vocabulary terms, pictures, and diagrams. While all of these are important, explain that learning science vocabulary will help them form a deeper understanding of the content and help them explain science concepts when speaking and writing.

**Science terms originate from Greek and Latin languages. Scientists used word parts from those languages to create the terms we use today. By knowing the meaning of those word parts, you can determine the meaning of science vocabulary you come across in science textbooks or articles. In our first lesson, we are going to be learning about the layers of the Earth. This falls under the science of Geology. Using your Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes handout (on pages 22–24 in the Academic Notebook), find the meanings of geo- and -logy. Geo means “Earth” and logy means “study of”, so Geology means the study of Earth. When breaking apart your vocabulary terms, remember that words can consist of three parts – prefix, root, and suffix. The root is the main part of a word. Prefixes, such as un- and dis-, can be added to the beginning of a root word. Suffixes like -ing and -less can be added to the end of a root word.**

**Now, look at your vocabulary template handouts. Not only will you be using word parts to help you learn your vocabulary terms, you will also create pictures to help you visualize the terms. Creating a picture will help reinforce the meaning of your science terms. You will use the template for each bolded term you encounter in your handouts. Notice that you will give the meaning of the word parts and the definition of the term, using a dictionary. You will also draw a picture and create a sentence for each term. Model what the students will be doing, using the term Geology that was used before. Tell the students to complete the top part of the template for each word before reading the “How Many Licks Does it Take to Get to The Center,” on pages 22–24; then complete the bottom part of the template after reading the handout.**

After giving the students time to complete the template for each term, allow the students to get into pairs and share their completed templates with one another. Call on students to share the similarities and differences that they noticed. They should notice that the meaning of the word parts and definitions are the same, but the pictures and sentences are different. **Explain that the bottom part of the template is meaningful to the person who created it. Each student drew a picture and wrote a sentence that would help him or her learn the specific term.**

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 21

Meaning of Word Parts	Definition
Picture	Sentence

### Assessment

#### Outcome 1:

Students learn how to approach discipline-specific vocabulary.

Evaluation Rubric			
Participates in the discussion and sharing of vocabulary template details.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Fully and accurately completes a vocabulary template for each assigned word.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>6</b>		

### Activity Two

#### Using Science Vocabulary (Approx. 30 minutes)

#### College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 7; Writing – 2d, 10

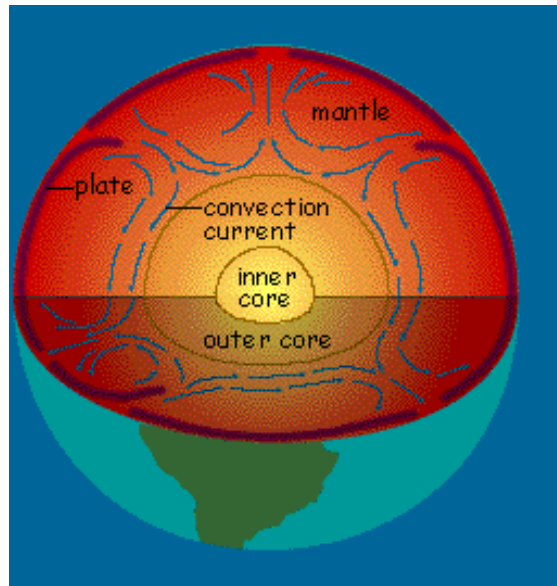
Remind students that at the beginning of Activity 1, one of the things they mentioned that stood out for them as they looked through a chapter in their science book and the handouts on Earth’s atmosphere and layers, were the pictures and diagrams. Discuss how understanding diagrams is an important part of science. **Diagrams are a visual representation of what is presented in the text. Being able to interpret a diagram will further your understanding of the content being covered.** Have students return to the diagrams on pages 25 and 26 in the Academic Notebook. Ask them to use these references to help their understanding of the information presented in the diagrams

from the article on pages 22-24. Using that understanding, **have the students describe, in four to five sentences in their Academic Notebooks what each diagram on pages 25 and 26 is showing. Have them use at least three of the terms from Activity 1.** Call on students to share their descriptions.

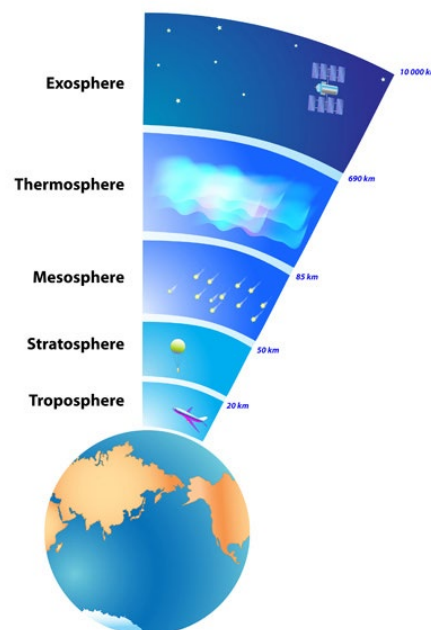
FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK pp 25-26

### Interpreting Diagrams

**Directions:** In four to five sentences, describe what each diagram is showing. In your description, use at least three of your vocabulary terms.



*(space provided)*



*(space provided)*

## Assessment

### Outcome 2:

Students will describe a science diagram using discipline-specific vocabulary.

Evaluation Rubric			
Accurately uses assigned vocabulary in written work.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Correctly identifies each diagram element.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>12</b>		

### Teacher Checklist

Use this list to ensure that you have completed all of the lesson components.

- 1. Explained the importance of learning discipline specific vocabulary.
- 2. Presented a list of roots, prefixes, and suffixes.
- 3. Presented and modeled how to use the vocabulary template.
- 4. Asked students to complete the template for each bolded term.
- 5. Allowed students to share in pairs their completed templates, and discussed the similarities and differences noticed as a class.
- 6. Explained the importance of understanding science diagrams.
- 7. Asked students to describe a diagram using their discipline-specific vocabulary.
- 8. Called on students to share their descriptions of each diagram.
- 9. Directed students to reflect on their learning by completing the essential question graphic organizer at the beginning of the unit.

## Lesson 3

# Developing Explanations

### Overview

Although many students are able to glean answers to basic recall-type questions from written text and audio-visual sources, they are often challenged when it comes to synthesizing information to answer more complex questions. This lesson includes experiences in discovering and organizing appropriate evidence from a variety of sources in order to formulate explanations.

### Outcomes

1. Students identify evidence and synthesize information from multiple sources including both models and text.
2. Students identify evidence from informational texts.
3. Students be able to use evidence to justify an explanation.

## College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)

### Reading

- 1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.
- 2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- 7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).
- 9 Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on research findings, and speculation in a text.
- 10 By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend science/technical texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

### Writing

- 1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- 2d Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

LDC

Skills Activity List

### Skill Cluster 1: Preparing for the Task

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### Skill Cluster 2: The Reading Process

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**Active Reading:**

- 1 Ability to identify the central point and main supporting elements of a text

### Skill Cluster 3: Transition to Writing

---

**Bridging:**

- 1 Ability to begin linking reading results to writing

### Skill Cluster 4: Writing Process

---

**Controlling Idea:**

- 1 Ability to establish idea and consolidate information relevant to task

**Planning:**

- 1 Ability to develop a line of thought and text structure appropriate to an informational/explanatory text

#### Materials

- Handouts, p.4–6 from A Plate Tectonic Puzzle Activity  
<http://www.amnh.org/explore/curriculum-collections/dinosaurs-activities-and-lesson-plans/plate-tectonics-puzzle> (This resource includes directions for the teacher, hand-outs for students, and an answer key for the puzzle.) Go to the website and download the pdf file of the activity. Print pages 4-6 of the document for the students. Pages 1-3 are teacher instructions.
- Scissors
- Tape or glue sticks
- Alfred Wegener article  
[http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Wegener/wegener\\_4.php](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Wegener/wegener_4.php)
- Plate tectonics reading  
[http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/tnoyes/Readings/11A\\_\\_R-Plate\\_Tectonics\\_Reading.pdf](http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/tnoyes/Readings/11A__R-Plate_Tectonics_Reading.pdf)
- Convection current animation  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpoko\\_l34ZE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpoko_l34ZE)
- Continental vs. Oceanic Crust mini-lecture  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SS61JBTxOw>

**Time Frame:** 280 minutes



Activity One

A Plate Tectonics Puzzle (50 minutes)

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 7**

Tell students to remember the images they observed in Lesson 1. **In this lesson, you will begin investigating ways in which such huge shifts in Earth’s continents might have occurred. In this activity, you will create a possible model of the supercontinent Pangea based on evidence.** Distribute enough copies of the Tectonics Puzzle (pages 4–6 only) and glue sticks for students to work in pairs. Explain that Alfred Wegener proposed that, at one time, all the continents were joined together as a single supercontinent. **Your task is to use evidence to propose a possible arrangement of continents into one supercontinent. Cut out the continents. Using the data provided in the legend in your handout, match as many similarities as possible. When you are satisfied with your arrangement, glue the pieces onto the template provided, and then glue the template into your Academic Notebook under Lesson 3, Activity 1.**

Allow students to work in partners to complete this activity. When students finish their puzzle, ask groups to share their completed puzzle. Ask them, **how did you come to fit the pieces together as you did?** (Possible answers might include matching shapes, matching rock ages, matching fossils, etc.) **What evidence did you use?** (Possible answers should cite matching evidence from the information provided on the legend.) **Was there any evidence as to how this might have happened?** (At this point in the lesson, students may recognize that the continents have moved. However, they probably will not be able to cite mechanisms for how until they do further reading. Note: Wegener could not do this either! This would be the next question to investigate.)

Assessment

**Outcome 1:**

Students identify evidence and synthesize information from multiple sources including both models and text.

Evaluation Rubric			
Thoroughly identifies and records evidence from the data provided in this activity.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>12</b>		

## Activity Two

## Close Reading and Annotation (80 minutes)

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 2**

In this activity, we will ask students to complete their first close reading of science text, specifically about the development of the theory of plate tectonics. This concept is complex and therefore requires careful close-reading strategies to help students make sense of the text.

Explain: **You will be investigating the theory of plate tectonics. Remember that scientific theories offer explanations of how natural phenomena occur, and are backed with multiple lines of evidence. Your purpose is to understand the theory and evidence that is explained in each text in order to understand plate tectonics. Review the “Reading in Science” article (in Academic Notebook on pages 29–30) about annotations, and examine the sample student annotation on page 31.** Note to teachers: A copy of this article can be found in this teacher’s guide on pages 49–50.

Ask: **How is this approach to reading science different from other disciplines?**

Ask: **How is annotating in science different from other disciplines?** (Students may point out specialized vocabulary, or that ideas are supported by facts, or that often big ideas can be broken down into smaller parts. Also, diagrams and illustrations are very important.)

Close reading of the Alfred Wegener article: [http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Wegener/wegener\\_4.php](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Wegener/wegener_4.php)

After reviewing the introduction to annotation, begin with the first article about Alfred Wegener’s theory of continental drift. Explain to students: **Alfred Wegener was the first to offer the theory of continental drift on page 32 of the Academic Notebook that scientists have come to accept today. Read and consider how Wegener’s theory refuted prior ideas.** Model the process of close reading and annotation through a read-aloud of the first paragraph. An example of what might be pulled out of the first paragraph would be:

Claim: Wegener thought that continents would float on the surface of the Earth.

Evidence: Continents are less dense than sea-floor.

Offer students the chance to ask questions to clarify the process of close reading and annotation. Students should then finish reading this article individually. Once they have finished their annotations, ask students to compare their annotations. **What was different? What details, examples or evidence did your notes share?** Hold a class discussion on the process of close reading and annotation.

Then tell students: **Look at the graphic organizer n page 34 that will be completed in Activity 3. What factor was addressed in this article? (The first factor: the density of basalt and granite)** Complete the first row of the graphic organizer together, using students’ annotations. Pose the following questions to students: **Did the note-taking template provide a purpose for your reading? Were your annotations helpful as you completed the graphic organizer? Without that purpose, would you have known what information to pull out as important? Did the process of pulling out important information relevant to the purpose help you in writing a summary?** Explain to students: **In reading informational texts, as in science, it is important**

**to keep in mind the purpose of reading. That purpose will determine what is important, so that as a reader you don't get lost in the details. Ask students to write a summary of Wegner's article on page 35 in the Academic Notebook.**

## Assessment

### Outcome 2:

Students identify evidence from informational texts.

Evaluation Rubric			
Makes complete annotations of text.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Shares annotations and adds to his or her notes	No	Somewhat	Yes
Completes the graphic organizer in the Academic Notebook.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Writes summary of Wegener article	No	Somewhat	Yes
Writes in reasonable prose	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>30</b>		

### Activity Three

### Gathering Information (100 minutes)

#### College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 1, 9, 10

In this activity, students will gather information from a central chapter on plate tectonics, and from a variety of supplementary texts that also include diagrams, video animations, as well as articles) to develop an understanding of how tectonic plates move. This builds on the concept set forth by Wegener and delves deeper into the mechanisms by which continental drift may have occurred. Ask students **to use the same close-reading and annotation strategies to approach these texts with the purpose of understanding how continents could move as Wegener suggested.**

Plate tectonics reading: [http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/tnoyes/Readings/11A\\_\\_RPlate\\_Tectonics\\_Reading.pdf](http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/tnoyes/Readings/11A__RPlate_Tectonics_Reading.pdf)

Convection Current Animation: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpoko\\_I34ZE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpoko_I34ZE)

Continental vs. Oceanic Crust mini-lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SS-61JBTxOw>

Note: students can access these sites on a computer to gather information, or you can download and duplicate copies for them to annotate.

A graphic organizer is provided on page 36 of the Academic Notebook to help students focus on this overall purpose and gather evidence from each text.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 36

Factor	Source of Information	Description of Evidence	How does this help explain how plates move?
Density of Basalt and Granite			
Sea Floor Spreading			
Convection Currents			
Ridge-Push			
Slab-Pull			

Students should work in groups of two or three to compare their graphic organizers and identify any missing information or areas of confusion that need further explanation. Students should work together to reach consensus on the graphic organizer and ensure each member's understanding of the texts.

## Assessment

### Outcome 2:

Students identify evidence from informational texts.

Evaluation Rubric			
Completes the graphic organizer in the Academic Notebook.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Works with group to reach consensus.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Provides correct explanations in answers.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>24</b>		

### Activity Four

### Using Evidence to Justify an Explanation (50 minutes)

#### College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 1; Writing – 1

Explain to students: **Alfred Wegener's critics were not satisfied with the theory of continental drift because it did not explain how the continents could move. You will write a thorough explanation, to a peer in this class, in which you use evidence to explain how the plates move.** Direct students to review the infographic highlighting the claim-evidence-reasoning (C-E-R) strategy for writing clear scientific explanations in their Academic Notebooks on page 37. Hold a brief whole-class discussion about how this strategy may be different from the way students may normally approach writing an explanation. With the C-E-R strategy in mind, write an explanation of plate tectonics to a peer. Remind students: **You have completed a graphic organizer in which you have identified evidence associated with explanations of how plates move. Use your graphic organizer to help you in composing a thorough explanation of plate tectonics. Use the USGS cross-section diagram of plates and plate motion, (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/dynamic/Vigil.html>) on page 38 of your Academic Notebook, to remind you of the different processes that occur as the plates move. Review the rubric included in your Academic Notebook on page 39 as you write your explanations.**

## Assessment

### Outcome 3:

Students thoroughly uses evidence to justify an explanation.

	<b>Claim</b> <i>A statement or conclusion that answers the original question/ problem</i>	<b>Evidence</b> <i>Scientific data that supports the claim. The data needs to be appropriate and sufficient to support the claim.</i>	<b>Reasoning</b> <i>A justification that connects the evidence to the claim. It shows why the data counts as evidence by using appropriate and sufficient scientific solutions.</i>
0	Does not make a claim, or makes an inaccurate claim like, "Levers do not affect work."	Does not provide evidence, or only provides evidence like, "The data shows me it is true" or "It would be a lot harder to move a piano without a lever."	Does not provide reasoning, or only provides inappropriate reasoning like, "Levers are used in lots of ways in our lives."
1	Makes an accurate but vague or incomplete claim like, "Levers make work easier" or "Levers do not make work easier." (It can actually depend.)	Makes a general statement about how in the investigations levers sometimes make the work easier and sometimes did not make the work easier. Does not include specific data.	Repeats evidence and links it to the claim, but does not include scientific principles.
2	Makes an accurate and complete claim like, "Levers sometimes make work easier."	Provides 1 of the following 2 pieces of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific data (e.g., numbers) from the investigation when the lever made the work easier.</li> <li>• Specific data (e.g., numbers) from the investigation when the lever made the work harder.</li> </ul>	Provides 1 of the following 2 pieces of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lever can make work feel easier depending on the load, the effort applied, and the position of the fulcrum.</li> <li>• Doing work is the ability to move an object. If it takes less force, the work feels easier.</li> </ul>
3	X	Provides 2 of the following 2 pieces of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific data (e.g., numbers) from the investigation when the lever made the work easier.</li> <li>• Specific data (e.g., numbers) from the investigation when the lever made the work harder.</li> </ul>	Provides 2 of the following 2 pieces of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lever can make work feel easier depending on the load, the effort applied, and the position of the fulcrum.</li> <li>• Doing work is the ability to move an object. If it takes less force, the work feels easier.</li> </ul>
<b>Total Points 18</b>			

**Teacher  
Checklist****Use this list to ensure that you have completed all of the lesson components.**

- 1. Asked students to use evidence to create a visual model.
- 2. Asked students to use data on a visual model as evidence for a scientific relationship.
- 3. Asked students to identify evidence from informational texts.
- 4. Asked students to synthesize evidence from various sources (including visual representations, experimental data, and informational texts) to formulate and write a scientific explanation.
- 5. Directed students to reflect on their learning by completing the essential question graphic organizer at the beginning of the unit.

## Lesson 4

# Transforming Information

### Overview

Before this lesson, have students complete the vocabulary terms template from Lesson 2 for the targeted vocabulary terms for Lesson 4.

Being able to turn text into a diagram and being able to explain what is happening in an animation are essential skills for truly learning science. These skills, along with note-taking strategies, will help students create connections among the materials they are presented with. In this lesson, students will continue to transform information as they did in Lesson 2, but will expand to include their own drawings and interpreting animations. Students will also use their previously learned note-taking strategy to take notes during a short video lecture.

### Outcomes

1. Students approach discipline-specific vocabulary.
2. Students transform information from visual form into text and from a text into visual form.
3. Students use previously learning note-taking strategies during a lecture on the rock cycle.

## College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)

### Reading

- 2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- 4 Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6-8 texts and topics.
- 7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).
- 9 Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.

### Writing

- 2d Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.



## Skill Cluster 2: The Reading Process

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### 1 Essential Vocabulary:

Ability to identify and master terms essential to understanding of a text

### 2 Scientific Terminology:

Ability to locate and understand scientific words and phrases that identify key concepts and facts, processes, or information

### 3 Multiple Representations:

Ability to read texts using multiple representations including diagrams, charts, tables, models, oral and written text

## Skill Cluster 3: Transition to Writing

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### 1 Bridging:

Ability to move smoothly from reading to writing.

#### Materials:

- Vocabulary terms template (7 copies for each student)
- Rock cycle article  
<http://education.seattlepi.com/rock-continually-recycled-rock-cycle-4431.html>
- Rock cycle animation  
<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/ks3/gsl/education/resources/rockcycle/page3892.html>
- Rock cycle video lecture  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm6cCg\\_Do6k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm6cCg_Do6k)

**Time Frame:** 75 minutes

#### Targeted Vocabulary:

Erosion	Sedimentary
Igneous	Subduction
Metamorphic	Weathering
Precipitate	

**Activity One**

**Transforming Information (Approx. 50 minutes)**

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 4, 7, 9; Writing – 2d**

Before this lesson, have students complete the vocabulary terms template from Lesson 2 for the targeted vocabulary terms for Lesson 4.

Remind students that in Lesson 2, they used words to describe a diagram. **Being able to understand diagrams as well as science animations will deepen your understandings of science concepts. Writing about what you are seeing and being able to create a diagram or animation to help explain what you are reading will enhance your learning experience in science.** Share the guidelines with students about what makes a good science diagram. Ask students to turn to the rock cycle article on page 42. (Students should have previously completed the vocabulary terms template for the targeted vocabulary for this lesson.) Tell the students that they will read the rock cycle article and then create a diagram that shows what the article is describing on page 43. After giving the students time to complete their diagrams, show the rock cycle animation.

Tell students to write down what is happening in each step of the animation. Show the animation several times, so that students have a chance to see it and comprehend what is happening at each step. Ask students to share their diagrams and animation explanations in pairs. Call on students to share their groups' similarities and differences.

**Assessment**

**Outcome 1:**

Students learn how to approach discipline-specific vocabulary.

Evaluation Rubric			
Fully and accurately completes a vocabulary template for each assigned word.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>21</b>		

**Outcome 2:**

Students transform information from a visual form into text and text to a visual form.

<b>Rock Cycle Diagram Rubric</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b>Multiplier</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Creation	X 2	The student correctly creates the rock cycle diagram to include the three different stages.	The student creates the rock cycle diagram with one error in the drawing of the different stages of the rock cycle.	The student creates the rock cycle diagram with more than one error in the drawing of the different stages of the rock cycle.
Labeling	X 1	The student labels all stages of the rock cycle correctly.	The student labels some stages of the rock cycle correctly.	The student labels none of the stages of the rock cycle correctly.
Descriptions	X 3	The student's written description of the rock cycle includes all three stages and they are correctly described.	The student's written description of the rock cycle includes at least two stages and/or they are correctly described.	The student's written description of the rock cycle does not include any of the three stages and does not describe the stages.
<b>Animation Description</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b>Multiplier</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Animation Sequences	X 2	The student correctly identifies all 10 sequences in the animation.	The student identifies at least five of the sequences in the animation.	The student identifies fewer than five of the sequences in the animation.
Labeling	X 3	The student's written description of the rock cycle animation includes all 10 sequences and they are correctly described.	The student's written description of the rock cycle animation includes at least five sequences and/or they are correctly described.	The student's written description of the rock cycle animation includes fewer than five sequences.
<b>Total Points (both rubrics) 33</b>				

**Activity Two**

**Taking Notes from a Lecture (Approx. 25 minutes)**

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 2; Writing – 2d**

**In Lesson 3, you used a claim-and-evidence template to take notes from an article. Now you are going to use that same template on page 45 to take notes from a short video lecture on the rock cycle.** Before beginning the video, share the note-taking checklist shown below with the students. After showing the 5-minute video, call on several students to share their main ideas they listed in the left-hand column and some key ideas they wrote down in the right. Note any similarities and differences. Did some students include the jellybean example while others did not? Have students share why they did or did not include that example. The students who did not may indicate to you that they already have a good understanding of the cycle, and the students who included it may feel as though they needed another example of how the cycle works. Discuss how one person’s notes will be different from another, but that each should contain the same key ideas.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 46

**Note-Taking Checklist**

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Did I use the same template from Lesson 3?                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Are my notes neat and organized?                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Do I have five key ideas?                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Have I included supporting information for the key ideas? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**Assessment**

**Outcome 2:**

Students use previously learned note-taking strategies to take notes during a short video lecture.

**Evaluation Rubric**

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Did I use the same template from Lesson 3?                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Are my notes neat and organized?                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Do I have five key ideas?                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Have I included supporting information for the key ideas? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**Total Points**

**12**

**Teacher  
Checklist****Use this list to ensure that you have completed all of the lesson components.**

1. Explained the importance of transforming information.
2. Shared the guidelines for a good science diagram.
3. Asked students to create a diagram from text.
4. Asked students to explain an animation.
5. Allowed students to share in pairs their completed diagrams and animation explanations, and discussed the similarities and differences noticed as a class.
6. Shared the note-taking checklist.
7. Showed a short video lecture on the rock cycle.
8. Asked students to take notes using the template from Lesson 3.
9. Called on students to share parts of their template, noting any similarities and differences and referring back to the checklist.
10. Directed students to reflect on their learning by completing the essential question graphic organizer at the beginning of the unit.

## Lesson 5

# Inquiry in Weathering and Erosion

### Overview

This lesson is pivotal in this unit, as it allows students to conduct inquiry investigations in which they explore the processes of weathering and erosion. Through this lesson, students will learn how scientists investigate through experimentation and modeling, as well as how scientists communicate their findings with other scientists. They will learn the importance of precise scientific language and writing conventions that make it easier for scientists to communicate with one another.

### Outcomes

1. Students conduct an inquiry investigation in which they explore the effects of weathering and erosion, drawing conclusions that will support their understanding of these processes.
2. Students use close reading and annotation to help them deepen their understanding of weathering and erosion.
3. Students design their own investigation to model a novel weathering or erosion process that was not included in the class stations.
4. Students write a formal lab report in which they communicate their model design, observations, and analysis of the validity of the model created.

## College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)

### Reading

- 2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- 3 Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.
- 4 Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6-8 texts and topic.
- 7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).
- 9 Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.

## Writing

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- 2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.
- 2d Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- 2e Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone.
- 2f Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
- 4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- 5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.

LDC

Skills Activity List

### Skill Cluster 1: Preparing for the Task

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#### Task Engagement:

Ability to connect the task and new learning to existing knowledge, skills, experiences, interests and concerns

### Skill Cluster 2: The Reading Process

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#### 1 Note-taking:

Ability to read purposefully and select relevant information; to summarize and/or paraphrase

#### 2 Organizing:

Ability to prioritize and narrow supporting information

### Skill Cluster 3: Transition to Writing

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#### Bridging:

Ability to move smoothly from reading to writing

### Skill Cluster 4: Writing Process

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#### Drafting:

Ability to put thoughts on paper in cohesive, organized fashion

#### Revising:

Ability to add revisions and corrections to improve a paper by using the rubric to ensure the quality of the written product

#### Editing:

Ability to evaluate other student writing and make suggestions for improvements

**Materials:**

- Weathering and Erosion Station Cards
- Household items for stations (individual required items listed on each station card)
  - Cake pan
  - Sand
  - Box
  - Rocks
  - Sandpaper
  - Ruler
  - Cup
  - Water
  - Brown sugar
  - Eye dropper
  - Wooden block
  - Coffee can with plastic lid
  - Samples of rock
  - White paper
  - 2 jars
  - Samples of limestone
  - Water
  - Weak acid (vinegar)
  - Dish pan
  - Watering can
  - Dirt
  - Gravel
  - Bottle caps
  - Steel wool
  - Plastic bags
- National Geographic Weathering article  
<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/weathering/>
- National Geographic Erosion article  
<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/erosion/>
- “Weathering and Erosion Examples” PowerPoint
- Landforms definition “Erosion”  
<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/erosion/>
- Inquiry Model Materials (listed on the student assignment sheet)
- Legos, KNex or other building toys
- Lab Report writing prompt
- Lab Report self-assessment checklist
- Lab Report rubric (for assessment purposes)

**Time Frame:** 300 minutes



## Activity One

## Exploring Weathering and Erosion (50 minutes)

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 3, 4; Writing – 2d**

*To prepare for this activity, print the lab station directions sheets (included as PDF documents in the resources folder). You will also need to prepare the common, household items needed at each station as listed on the station cards.*

Students will begin this lesson with a bell-ringer asking students to draw upon their background knowledge about weathering and erosion. They will have been introduced to these concepts in Lesson 4. Pose the question, **“What is weathering and erosion, and how do these processes shape the surface of the Earth?”** Students should answer this question individually, and then you should lead a short whole-class discussion to allow students to share their answers. **Explain that this lesson will allow students to investigate these processes further in order to gain a more in-depth understanding of their role in shaping our Earth.**

After this brief introduction that elicits students’ background knowledge, you should introduce the lab stations to students (page 48 in the Academic Notebook). **Explain that the lab stations in this activity will allow students to model the processes of weathering and erosion at work in many scenarios.** Students will work in groups of three to follow the directions at each station and record observations using the notes sheet included in the Academic Notebook on pages 49–54.

**Lead a short whole-class discussion of the conclusion questions after students have completed all stations.** This will allow for a quick formative assessment of student learning, and students will have the opportunity to ask questions and clarify any misunderstandings.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 48

## WEATHERING AND EROSION

### Lab Stations

**Purpose:** To investigate the processes of weathering and erosion.

**Background Information:** Weathering involves two processes that often work together to decompose rocks. Both processes occur in place. No movement is involved in weathering. Chemical weathering involves a chemical change in some of the minerals in a rock. Mechanical weathering involves physically breaking rocks into fragments without changing the chemical make-up of the minerals within them. As soon as a rock particle (loosened by one of the two weathering processes) moves, we call it erosion or mass wasting. Mass wasting is simply movement down slope due to gravity. Rock falls, slumps, and debris flows are all examples of mass wasting. We call it erosion if the rock particle is moved by some flowing agent such as air, water or ice.

### Materials:

9 Stations – materials and task cards at each station

*Note: Stations 7, 10, and 12 are intentionally skipped.*

### Procedures:

1. There are nine stations in the classroom. Each station is numbered. Each station has all of the materials you will need to investigate one aspect of weathering and erosion. Each station also has a TASK CARD with instructions for completing the investigation.
2. Rotate through each station one at a time. You may go to the stations in any order.
3. Read the TASK CARD at each station. Read it again. Make sure you understand the instructions.
4. Follow the procedure on the task card. Record your observations and data on this station in your Academic Notebook.

*NO MORE THAN 3 people at a time at any station. Adjust accordingly for the number of your students.*

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 49

### Station Notes

#### Station #1 – Wind Erosion

Observations

Wind	
Sandpaper on rocks	

What would a very strong wind do to the sand?

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What would happen if the sand hit clay?

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What would happen if the sand hit rock?

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How is rubbing sandpaper across a rock like windblown sand hitting a rock?

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FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 50

**Station #2 – Splash Erosion**

As water falls, it is a source of potential energy. The greater the height from which the water falls, the greater the potential energy. Falling raindrops strike the earth at about 20 mph. The effect of one drop is little, but many drops can tear apart the surface of the soil.

Describe what happened to the surface of the sand.

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What do you think will happen to the surfaces of mountains that have large amounts of rainfall?

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---

How do you think the material that makes up different types of rock will affect how easily each type is worn away?

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What difference did the height of the water make?

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FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 51

**Station #3 – Weathering and Erosion**

Observations:

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Describe what you think has happened to the water that collects in the bottom of the tray.

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Describe what has happened to the surface of the “rock.”

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What do you think happens to rock that has been dissolved?

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**Station #4 – Mechanical Weathering**

Observations:

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List one natural situation that is similar to the process used in this investigation.

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**Station #5 – Chemical Weathering**

Observations:

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How might this process occur in nature?

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FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 52

**Station #6 – Wave Action**

Observations:

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Beach Sketch BEFORE Waves

Height in cm:

Beach Sketch AFTER Waves

Height in cm:

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 53

**Station #8 – Soil Erosion**

Observations:

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Which particles moved first? Second? Last?

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How does the size of the particles affect the rate of erosion?

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Would the amount of water affect the rate of erosion? Explain your answer.

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Would the hardness of the rain affect the rate of erosion? Explain your answer.

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If you wanted to control erosion on a hill, what type of particles would be best? Explain.

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FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 54

**Station #9 – More Soil Erosion**

Observations:

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Do the bottle caps affect the rate of erosion? Explain your answer.

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How could you prevent erosion on a dirt hill?

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**Station #11 – More Chemical Weathering**

Observations:

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How are the bags the same? How are they different?

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What caused the changes in the wet steel wool?

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Explain how this kind of weathering could happen to a rock.

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**After all students have completed the stations, create randomized groups in which students will share their findings.** This is an opportunity for students from different groups to share their discoveries and to add to or revise their notes if needed.



## Assessment

### Outcome 1:

Students conduct an inquiry investigation in which they explore the effects of weathering and erosion, drawing conclusions that will support their understanding of these processes.

Evaluation Rubric or other assessment				
Category	Multiplier	3	2	1
Participation	X 2	The student is engaged fully at each station, following directions to complete the activity.	The students is engaged at each station, but doesn't follow the directions carefully.	The student is disengaged or not completing the station task properly.
Note-Taking	X 2	The student completes the guiding questions thoughtfully at each station.	The student partially completes the station guiding questions, with few notes.	The student makes very few notes and does not answer the guiding questions.
Share-Out	X 2	The student engages in small-group discussions, sharing their work and listening carefully to others in order to ensure their notes are thorough and correct.	The student participates in small group share-out, but does not take the time to revise notes or ensure that they are thorough and correct.	The student is not participatory in the small-group share-out.
<b>Text Annotation (50 minutes)</b>				

### Activity Two

### Text Annotation (50 minutes)

#### College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 2, 4, 7, 9

In this activity, students will continue to use the text annotation process as a tool to help them in close reading. Begin by asking students to review the excerpt in their Academic Notebooks on pages 29–31 about reading science text and annotation.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK pp 29-30

## Reading Science Text

(Adapted from Nist-Olejnik & Holschuh, 2013).

In science textbooks you will find many new terms and definitions. Often, the terms introduced in early chapters will be used later in the text to define other terms. So you need to be sure you understand the new terms as they appear to avoid trouble understanding future reading. Science textbooks also discuss proven principles and theories in terms of their relationship to each other. Therefore, it is important to be aware of and understand how the theories connect and how they explain the science concepts you are learning.

Concepts in science textbooks are usually presented sequentially, which means the concepts build on each other. Your best plan is to test yourself as you read to make sure you fully understand each concept. It is also helpful to create reading goals to monitor what you are learning. This means that rather than focusing on getting through a chapter, focus on learning concepts every time you read. Adopt a scientific approach and ask yourself questions such as:

- What data support this concept or theory?
- What other theories is this concept related to?
- How does this phenomenon work? What is the scientific process involved?
- Why does this phenomenon occur?
- What does it show us?

It is also important to pay attention to the diagrams in each chapter. They are there to help you picture the science process so that you can see what is happening. Understanding diagrams is crucial to doing well in most science courses.

## Gearing Up for Reading

To gear up for reading, start by reading the chapter title and thinking about what you already know about that concept. Focus on primary and secondary headings to understand how the chapter is organized and how the ideas are related together. If your text has an outline of topics at the beginning of each chapter, use it to help you think about the key points. If not, skim through the chapter for key terms and think about how they are related to the appropriate heading or subheading. Pay special attention to diagrams and figures, and think about how they relate to the overall focus of the chapter. Finally, read the chapter objectives and guiding questions if your textbook has these features.

## What and How to Annotate During Reading

Because of the large amount of new terminology involved in learning science, it is important for you to read your science textbooks before class. In this way, you will be familiar with the terms and concepts discussed in the text and you will be able to build your understanding of the concepts as you listen in class. It is also a good idea to connect the concepts discussed in class with the concepts described in your text by comparing your lecture notes to your text annotations each time you read. This will help you follow the flow of the concepts and will help you understand how the ideas are connected.

When you annotate your science text, you need to match your annotations to the course expectations. For example, if you are expected to think at higher levels, be sure your annotations include more than just the bold-faced terms. If you are expected to be able to explain science processes, be sure your annotations help you learn to do just that.

In general, it is a good idea to limit the amount of material you annotate. Annotate big concepts and save the details for your rehearsal strategies. A big mistake that students make when annotating science is that they tend to annotate too much. It is also essential to focus on putting the ideas into your own words. This will help you monitor your understanding of what you have read and will keep you from copying exactly from the text. In addition, look for experiments and results or conclusions drawn from scientific theories, and seek to make connections between the experiments and the concepts they generate.

Science texts often contain diagrams or charts to explain concepts. Because science exams usually contain questions about the concepts described in diagrams or charts, you must be able to read and understand each one. As you read your text, annotate the diagrams and take the time to reflect on what they are depicting. A good self-testing strategy to make sure you fully understand the concept is to cover up the words in the diagram and try to talk through the information. If you can explain how the concept works, you've shown that you understand it. If you find that you cannot explain it, reread your annotations or the diagram text to be sure you understand the key points.

In the annotation example, notice how the annotations focus on explaining the concepts rather than just memorizing the terms.

### **What is Annotation?**

- Writing brief summaries in the textbook's margin.
- Enumerating multiple ideas (i.e., causes, effects, reasons, characteristics).
- Sketching pictures or charts to explain difficult processes/concepts.
- Writing possible test questions.
- Noting puzzling or confusing ideas that need clarification.
- Underlining key ideas.

### **Why Should I Annotate?**

- It will improve your concentration so you will not become distracted and have to reread.
- It can provide an immediate self-check for your understanding of the textbook's key ideas.
- It will help you remember more.
- It can assist you in test preparation.
- It will negate the need of time spent in rereading the chapters.
- It will help you state ideas in your words.

### **What should I annotate?**

- Definitions
- Lists, features, causes, effects, reasons, characteristics
- Diagrams and Processes
- Examples of good ideas

Model the process of annotating with students in a think-aloud. Explain that annotation is another note-taking strategy to help students engage deeply in text and to “hold their thinking” as they read in order to better comprehend the text. Begin reading the erosion article aloud on page 55, and demonstrate (with document camera or other available technology) how you would annotate the text as you read. Be very transparent in your own thinking as you read and annotate.

**Use the annotation checklist in your Academic Notebook on page 59 critique your annotation and to discuss what good annotations look like.** A whole-group discussion on the usefulness of annotation will help students solidify their understanding of this process. Students may even offer feedback for how you may improve your notations.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p59

### Annotation Checklist

- Your annotations are perfect! Keep up the good work.
- You have missed many key ideas. Go back and annotate them.
- You need to put your annotations in your own words — do not copy from the book!
- Be briefer in your annotations. You do not need to write in full sentences.
- You have ignored the graphic aids. Annotate them.
- You need to note the specific examples — they could reappear on the exam.
- You need to enumerate the specific facts, characteristics, causes, events, etc., in the margin or in the text. Get the details, too!
- Your annotations need to focus on the key ideas more, and less on details.
- You are underlining too much — work more on writing your summaries in the margin.
- You are annotating too much! It will take you forever to do a chapter.
- You are annotating too little! You do not have enough information annotated to use as a study aid.
- You need to develop some symbols of your own and use them.
- You need to develop a method for organizing your annotations.
- Please annotate these sections or pages again.

p. \_\_\_\_\_ p. \_\_\_\_\_ p. \_\_\_\_\_ p. \_\_\_\_\_

Students will work in partners to read and annotate the two National Geographic articles on weathering and erosion on pages 55–58 in the Academic Notebook, stopping at every other paragraph to share annotations and discuss what they have read. If students do not finish in class, they should finish individually for homework. When the activity is complete, students should peer-assess their annotations using the annotation checklist on page 59.

## Assessment

### Outcome 2:

Students use close reading and annotation to help them deepen their understanding of weathering and erosion.

Evaluation Rubric			
Student completes annotations of two articles.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Uses the annotation checklist to peer review annotations.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>12</b>		

### Activity Three

### Designing Investigations (100 minutes)

#### College and Career Readiness Standards: Writing – 2

**To review the concepts of weathering and erosion, show the review PowerPoint to students** (located on the SREB website). The PowerPoint includes many images of real-world examples of weathering and erosion at work. This PowerPoint serves two functions: 1) It reviews the major concepts they read about in Activity 2, and 2) it offers examples of Earth landforms that students may wish to design an investigation around.

Introduce students to the model activity by asking them to read in their Academic Notebooks on page 60.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 60-61

## Weathering and Erosion at Work: Modeling the Construction of Landforms

### Introduction:

You have learned about how weathering and erosion shaped the surface of the Earth. You have completed several short lab investigations of various ways that weathering and erosion can act, and have seen several images of how these processes have shaped the Earth. Your task is to investigate a particular example of how weathering or erosion has shaped the Earth, and then create a lab investigation to model this process at work.

You will begin with an image of a particular land form that has been shaped through weathering and erosion. You must research the process, and then create a working model that will demonstrate that process at work. You will create a detailed procedure for creating your model for other scientists. Scientists should be able to use your model to investigate the process in the lab setting, and even collect data to help them make predictions about the conditions and time necessary to create that particular landform.

### Examples of Landforms:

(retrieved from: <http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-landforms.html>)

Landforms are natural physical features of the Earth's surface. As an element of topography, a landform is defined by its shape, location, and how it was formed.

#### *Aeolian Landforms*

Aeolian landforms are formed by either the erosive or the constructive action of the wind. As the wind erodes the land it has the effect of sandblasting the surface, leaving rock surfaces such as those found in the desert.

Examples are:

- Barchan – A convex-shaped sand dune with a gentle slope up the side of the wind direction and a 30–35 degree slip face that faces away from the wind.
- Blowout – A small hollow.
- Desert pavement – A sheet-like surface of rock.
- Desert varnish – A dark stain on the surfaces of desert rocks.
- Dune – A hill or mountain of sand.
- Dreikanter – A three-faced weathered rock.
- Erg – A sand covered desert.
- Loess – An accumulation of sediment or silt that is joined together by calcium carbonate.
- Dry lake – A waterless lakebed, typically covered in fine-grained rocks that contain salt.
- Sandhill – A sandy or low-vegetation hill area that receives minimal rainfall and has trouble retaining the water.
- Ventifact – Rocks that have been cut and polished by the wind.
- Yardang – Very large or very long, streamlined, sculpted forms caused by wind erosion.

*Landforms Produced by Erosion and Weathering*

- Badlands – A dry terrain with steep slopes and little or no vegetation.
- Butte – An isolated hill that typically has a flat top and steep sides.
- Canyon – A deep ravine between two cliffs or encasements, like the Grand Canyon.
- Cave – An underground space created by the weathering of rocks that is enclosed and large enough to enter.
- Cliff – An area with a steep drop-off, usually formed by erosion and near rock exposures.
- Cuesta – A hill or a ridge with a gentle slope.
- Gulch – A deep valley that has generally been formed by land erosion.
- Gully – A ditch or valley created by erosion.
- Hogback – A narrow ridge of hills with steep slopes and a narrow crest. The slopes are usually close to equal on both sides.
- Hoodoo – A tall thin rock formation protruding from the bottom of a badland.
- Lavaka – A hole in the side of a hill caused by erosion.
- Mesa – A tableland, or an elevated area with a flat top and steep cliff-like sides.
- Mountain pass – A path through a mountain range over a low point in a ridge.
- Plain – A large area that is flat or gently rolling, usually low in elevation.
- Plateau – An area that is high in elevation and basically flat.
- Ravine – Formed by running water, a ravine is smaller than a canyon and is steep and deep.
- Ridge – A chain of hills or mountains.
- Rock shelter – An cave-like opening at the base of a cliff.
- Scree – A collection of broken rocks at the base of a mountain.
- Strath – A wide shallow river valley.
- Summit – The highest point on a hill or mountain.
- Valley – A low area between hills or mountains.

**Creating the Model:**

After choosing the landform you would like to research, you will need to research the specific processes of weathering and erosion that creates your landform. You will apply your understanding of those processes to create a model, using everyday materials, that can simulate how your landform was created. The model should effectively simulate the process by which this landform is created, using the materials provided. You must make observations about your model and revise it as needed so that it simulates the process as effectively as possible.

**Materials Available To Create Your Model:**

- |                |                         |              |            |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------|
| • Potting soil | • Clay                  | • Straws     | • Hotplate |
| • Sand         | • Chalk                 | • Paper cups | • Hammer   |
| • Rocks        | • Water                 | • Dish pans  | • Chisel   |
| • Gravel       | • Vinegar (a weak acid) | • Freezer    |            |

After students read about the assignment individually, **ask students to explain the task in their own words.**

**Divide students into groups of three to four** (teacher choice on how groups are determined). Ask the groups to choose a landform from the list provided that they would like to work on. Ensure that there are no duplicates between groups so that the class can be exposed to many different landforms.

**Allow students one (50-minute) class period to research their landform and plan their model.** This activity is student-driven and should be generated through student inquiry, the model designed by students, and observations and revisions by students as they see fit. The role of the teacher is to guide students through the process by offering support when necessary and to approve model designs. The teacher should NOT tell students what they should investigate or how they should design an investigation to model the process they are researching.

**Allow students one (50-minute) class period to create, test and revise their model.** Students will use the materials provided to create a physical model that demonstrates how weathering and erosion worked to shape the Earth in their particular landform. Students will use the student lab packet on pages 62-63 in the Academic Notebook to guide their planning. Teacher will facilitate group work and confer with small groups as they need guidance.

## Assessment

### Outcome 3:

Students design their own investigation to model a novel weathering or erosion process that is responsible for creating a particular landform.

Evaluation Rubric			
Conducts research on landform and plans model.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Works cooperatively in assigned group.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Creates a model to simulate the process of forming the chosen landform.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>30</b>		



## Activity Four

## Communicating Information in Science (100 minutes)

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Writing – 2, 2d, 2e, 2f, 4, 5**

**Direct students to build a unique 3D structure using Legos, K'Nex, or other such building toys.** They should take a picture of their structure with their phones to document it. **Ask students to write detailed instructions on how to build their structure on a separate piece of paper so that someone else may replicate their structure.** When they have finished, they should disassemble their structure and trade baggies and instructions with a partner from across the room (someone that has not seen the built structure). **Direct students to use the instructions given to them to build their partner's structure.** When each student has built the structure based on the instructions, the partners should meet and compare it with the picture of the initial structure. Student partners should discuss how closely the structure they built replicated the original structure. **Lead a brief whole-group discussion of the importance of details and precision in language when writing scientific procedures.** Students will use this skill as they write their lab reports on the landform model they created.

Students will write a variation of a scientific lab report to communicate information about the weathering and erosion model they created. Although today's activity was not a traditional lab with a hypothesis and data collected, they can still practice the same structure and discipline-specific writing conventions. The lab report structure and expectations are provided for students in their Academic Notebooks on page 65.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 65

## Modeling Weathering and Erosion: Lab Report

### Task

Write a formal lab report to communicate your findings from your weathering and erosion investigation. You will communicate the purpose of the investigation and any pertinent background information, as well as explain the model you created to simulate the Earth process you researched. You must include a procedure to create the model and analyze how well your model simulated the specific example of weathering or erosion that you researched. Finally, you must draw conclusions regarding the efficacy of your model and its usefulness in simulating this particular Earth process. Consider revisions to the model and possible next steps to refine your model. Use the following Lab Report Format to guide your writing.

### Lab Report Format

Include the following sections in your report. Label all sections!

#### *Introduction:*

In this section state the purpose of the investigation. Explain any background information that you researched that is important in understanding this particular example of weathering or erosion.

#### *Model Rationale:*

Clearly explain your reasoning for developing your particular model/ simulation of your researched example of weathering or erosion.

#### *Materials/Procedure:*

Give a detailed description of your model. Include step-by-step (numbered) instructions on how you built the model. Include the types of measurements and observations you made in creating your model.

#### *Analysis:*

Include a written description of the efficacy of your model/simulation. Include both qualitative and quantitative observations as applicable. Determine if the model you created is an accurate representation of the process of weathering/erosion that you researched. Explain how your observations support or reject that claim. Infer about WHY you think the results turned out the way they did.

#### *Conclusion:*

Summarize your inquiry investigation. Was the model you created an accurate simulation of the process? Discuss any sources of error and revisions you would make to your model. What would you do differently next time? Or what would your next steps be? What are any future implications of your findings?

### Science Writing Do's and Don'ts

#### Do

- Follow the format exactl.
- Label all sections.
- Write formally (not like a letter to a friend).
- Use full sentences (no fragments or run-ons).
- Be detailed BUT concise.
- Make sure to support your "claims" with DATA collected.
- Proof read your lab report.

#### Don't

- Deviate from the format.
- Use pronouns in the writing – I, we, you.
- Discuss other groups' findings – only about your experiment.
- Be "fluffy" in the writing, just stick to the point.
- Assume the reader was there for the lab – be detailed!

**Allow students time in their small groups to write a rough draft of the lab report.** Students will use the “Analyzing Lab Reports” checklist to peer review and offer feedback for revisions before the final copy of the lab report is turned in.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 66

**Lab Report Peer-Assessment**

**Introduction**

- 1. Is there a *purpose* statement for why the inquiry is being performed? .....  Yes  No
- 2. Does the report include the experimental question being investigated? .....  Yes  No
- 3. Does it have multiple pieces of *background information* that help you to understand the process that will be modeled? .....  Yes  No

**Model Rationale**

- 1. Is there reasoning that explains the connection between the erosion/weathering process and the model that can simulate that process? .....  Yes  No

**Materials**

- 1. Is there a list of the materials they will need? .....  Yes  No All there?  Yes  No
- 2. Are safety precautions listed if necessary? .....  Yes  No

**Procedures**

- 1. By reading their procedures, could you replicate the model exactly as they did it? ...  Yes  No
- 2. Are the procedures numbered, easy to follow, and neat? .....  Yes  No
- 3. Are measurements and observations to be made clearly identified? .....  Yes  No

**Analysis**

- 1. Are the observations used to support or reject the efficacy of the model? .....  Yes  No
- 2. Is there *reasoning/explanation* as to **why** the model worked the way that it did? .....  Yes  No

**Conclusion**

- 1. Is there a summary of what was done in the investigation and how the observations indicate the efficacy of the model created? .....  Yes  No
- 2. Is there a discussion about the validity of the model? Sources of error? .....  Yes  No
- 3. Is there a discussion of what should be done next in this investigation? How the model could be revised? .....  Yes  No

**Scientific Writing Conventions**

- 1. Is science vocabulary used? (Consider key terms important in understanding the Earth processes of weathering and erosion!) .....  Yes  No
- 2. Does the writing sound like a letter to a friend or a formal piece of analytical writing?..  Yes  No
- 3. Is the report neat and easy to read? .....  Yes  No
- 4. Does it follow basic grammar rules? (Ex. capitals start a sentence, punctuation used, commas where needed) .....  Yes  No
- 5. Is it written in the 3rd person, with all personal pronouns removed (I, we, our)? .....  Yes  No
- 6. Are the lab report sections labeled? .....  Yes  No
- 7. Is it detailed, leaving no room for interpretation? .....  Yes  No
- 8. Is evidence used to support all claims? .....  Yes  No

## Assessment

### Outcome 4:

Students write a formal lab report in which they communicate their model design, observations, and analysis of the validity of the model created.

<b>Evaluation: Use the rubric below.</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>4 Excellent</b>	<b>3 Good</b>	<b>2 Satisfactory</b>	<b>1 Poor</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	The purpose of the lab is clearly identified. Background information is explained in depth.	The purpose of the lab is identified, but is stated in a somewhat unclear manner. Background information is accurately explained, but lacks depth.	The purpose of the lab is partially identified, and is stated in a somewhat unclear manner. Background information is explained with some inaccuracies.	The purpose of the lab is erroneous or irrelevant. Background information is not included.
<b>Model Rationale</b>	The rationale of the model is clear and reasonable, and is based on background knowledge and what has been studied.	Clear and reasonable rationale with some connection to background knowledge and what has been studied.	Reasonable rationale based on general knowledge and observations.	Rationale has not been explained or it appears to be based on flawed logic.
<b>Materials and Procedures</b>	Procedures are listed in clear steps. Each step is numbered and is a complete sentence. The lab can be easily replicated by following the steps.	Procedures are listed in a logical order, but steps are not numbered and/or are not in complete sentences. The lab could be replicated but lacks some detail.	Procedures are listed but are not in a logical order or are difficult to follow.	Procedures are not listed in clear or accurate steps.
<b>Analysis</b>	Thoroughly explains the observations and analysis made on the validity of the model.	Explains the observations with some analysis on the validity of the model.	Somewhat explains the observations with little analysis on the validity of the model.	Poor explanation of the observations. Little to no analysis on the validity of the model.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Conclusion clearly summarizes the investigation and observations made. Clearly reflects on the validity of the model, including possible sources of error. Clearly reflects on what was learned from the experiment and possible future implications.	Conclusion summarizes the investigation and the observations. Reflects on the validity of the model, including possible sources of error. Reflects on what was learned from the experiment and possible future implications.	Conclusion somewhat summarizes the investigation and observations made. Somewhat reflects on the validity of the experiment, including possible sources of error. Somewhat reflects on what was learned from the experiment and possible future implications.	Conclusion is lacking in summary of investigation as well as reflection.
<b>Total points 20</b>				

**Teacher  
Checklist****Use this list to ensure that you have completed all of the lesson components.**

- 1. Directed students to complete the weathering and erosion lab stations, completing the guided notes as they complete each station.
- 2. Grouped students so that they could share out observations and notes from the lab stations.
- 3. Introduced students to text annotation and completed a think-aloud read.
- 4. Allowed students to finish reading the articles, using annotation and peer-reviewing with the annotation checklist.
- 5. Showed students the Weathering and Erosion PowerPoint.
- 6. Introduced students to the Model Investigation task.
- 7. Allowed students time to research and plan their model.
- 8. Allowed students time to create their model, make observations, and make revisions as necessary.
- 9. Introduced students to scientific writing with the Lego activity.
- 10. Direct students to write the lab report.
- 11. Allowed students to peer-review using the checklist provided.
- 12. Directed students to reflect on their learning by completing the essential question graphic organizer at the beginning of the unit.

## Lesson 6

# Analyzing Data

### Overview

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To be scientifically literate citizens, students must be able to analyze information and data to verify claims and make decisions. In this lesson, students will examine graphs of atmospheric data, determine cause and effect for changes in the composition of the atmosphere, and use models to make predictions about atmospheric change.

### Outcomes

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1. Students will interpret graphs in order to analyze changes in the atmosphere over time.
2. Students use data to determine cause and effect.
3. Students use data collected over time to identify trends and make predictions.

## College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)

### Reading

---

- 1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts. (Specifically, this includes evidence from graphs and data.)
- 2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- 7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).
- 8 Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on research findings, and speculation in a text.

### Writing

---

- 1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
- 7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
- 8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

LDC

Skills Activity List

## Skill Cluster 2: The Reading Process

1. Ability to interpret data represented in graphical form
2. Ability to identify patterns and trends in data
3. Ability to suggest cause and affect linkages using data as evidence

## Skill Cluster 3: Transition to Writing

### Bridging:

Ability to begin linking reading results to writing, including the interpretation of graphical data

### Materials

- Computers with Internet access
- Atmospheric changes graph:  
<http://www.scientificpsychic.com/etc/timeline/atmosphere-composition.gif>  
(Use in Activity 1: History of the Atmosphere)
- “How did Earth’s atmosphere form?”  
<http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/atmosphere-formation>  
(Reading used in Activity 1: History of the Atmosphere)
- “History of the Atmosphere”  
<http://teachertech.rice.edu/Participants/louviere/history.html>  
(Reading used in Activity 1: History of the Atmosphere)
- “Evolution of the Atmosphere”  
[http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange1/current/lectures/Perry\\_Samson\\_lectures/evolution\\_atm/](http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange1/current/lectures/Perry_Samson_lectures/evolution_atm/)  
(This is a teacher resource for Activity 1: “History of the Atmosphere” that may also be used as an additional source by more advanced students. Many graphs and diagrams are included that the teacher may want to use as supplemental sources. The text is more thorough and complex than the readings indicated above.)
- Very, Very Simple Climate Model (Instructional tool/simulation for student Activity 2: Human Impact on the Atmosphere)  
[http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/climate/cli\\_model.html](http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/climate/cli_model.html)  
Teacher Note: If, when you try to access this site, you are taken to the homepage of the site, you can navigate to the simulation by:
  1. Click on “Earth” on the left
  2. Click on “Climate” at the top
  3. Click on Climate Models on the left
  4. Scroll down and click on “Very Very Simple...”

**Time Frame:** 190 minutes

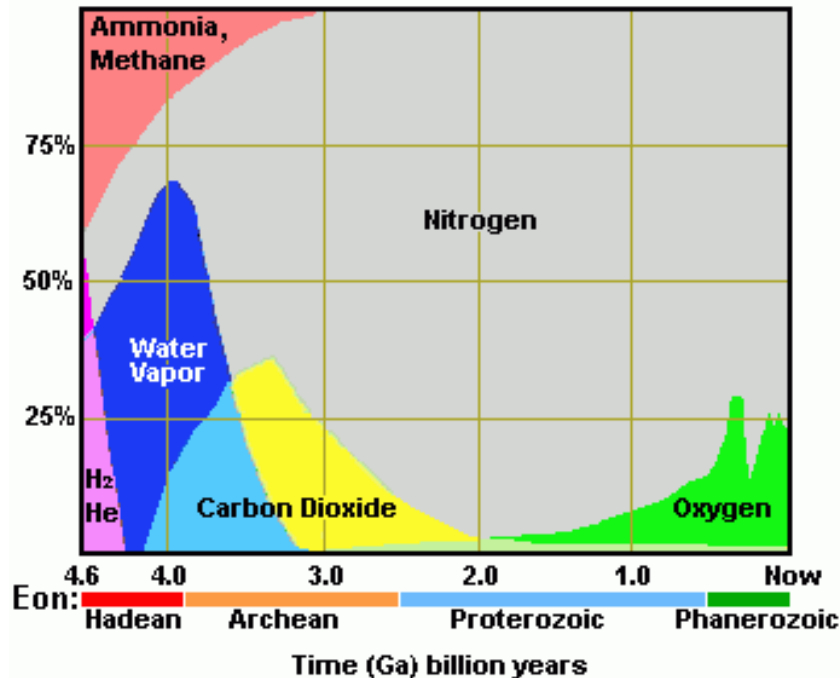
Activity One

History of the Atmosphere (80 minutes)

College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 1, 2, 7

Examine the graph on page 66 that shows the composition of Earth's atmosphere over time in your Academic Notebook.

% of Atmosphere Composition of Earth's atmosphere



<http://www.scientificpsychic.com/etc/timeline/atmosphere-composition.gif>

Lead a discussion of the graph using these questions.

1. **What is shown by x-axis? The y-axis?** (The x-axis is time. The y-axis is the percent composition of the atmosphere.)
2. **What gases were abundant in the early atmosphere?** (Hydrogen, Helium, Ammonia and Methane were abundant in the very early atmosphere. Water Vapor and Carbon dioxide soon became abundant.)
3. **What gas makes up most of the atmosphere today?** (Nitrogen)
4. **What other gases are shown on the graph?** (Oxygen, of course. BE sure that students notice the hydrogen and helium.)
5. **What surprises you as you study the graph?** (Answers will vary.)
6. **What questions do you think of as you look at the graph?** (Answers will vary.)

Use the three column organizer, **The Changing Atmosphere**, to analyze causes and effects in the Academic Notebook on page 69. List changes in Earth's atmosphere based on the graph in one column. Examples may include: Oxygen increases. Hydrogen and helium decrease (almost disappear). Water vapor increases, then decreases. Carbon dioxide increases, then decreases. These changes that they



are shown in this graph are the “effects” to some event that changed the composition of the atmosphere.

**In a later step, you will be using texts to look for reasons why these changes have occurred.** Review the example given in the first column.

After students have had an opportunity to list at least five changes, direct them to, **Use the readings on pages 71-73 in the Academic Notebook to investigate the causes of the changes you have identified. Complete the chart on page 69 in the Academic Notebook using information from the graph of earth’s atmosphere and the details from the articles. The cause of a particular change should be noted in the second column adjacent to the description of the change and the source of information should be cited in the third column.** This activity could be completed individually or in collaborative groups.

“How did Earth’s atmosphere form?” Pages 71–72

<http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/atmosphere-formation/>

This is a less complex text that describes the changes in Earth’s atmosphere in three stages.

“History of the Atmosphere” Page 73

<http://teachertech.rice.edu/Participants/louviere/history.html>

## Assessment

### Outcome 1:

Students interpret graphs in order to analyze changes in the atmosphere over time.

### Outcome 2:

Students use data to determine cause and effect.

### Outcome 3:

Students use data collected over time to identify trends and make predictions.

Evaluation Rubric			
Completes graphic organizer.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Identifies five changes in the earth’s atmosphere.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Accurately identifies changes and patterns indicated on a graph, matches causes and effects, and uses data to identify trends and make predictions.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>18</b>		

**Activity Two**

**Human Impact on the Atmosphere (60 minutes)**

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 1, 7**

Instruct students to use the “**Very, Very Simple Climate Model**” (Simulation), ([http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/climate/cli\\_model.html](http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/climate/cli_model.html)), to explore the effects of CO2 emissions on global temperature and on the composition of the atmosphere. Tell students, **Consider what happens if we reduce or increase CO2 emissions. The simulation allows you the opportunity to select certain variables and predict the effects from your choices. It will allow you to collect data. Record data for the variables on the graphic organizer for Activity 2 in the Academic Notebook on page 74. Use 5 or 10 year step intervals as you use the model and estimate values for CO2 concentration and average global temperature for the years indicated on the graphic organizer.**

Additional/optional teacher resource: This site has many supporting materials and ideas for using this simulation, including guiding questions and presentation suggestions: “Using the Very, Very Simple Climate Model in the Classroom” ([http://www.windows2universe.org/teacher\\_resources/teach\\_climatemodel.html](http://www.windows2universe.org/teacher_resources/teach_climatemodel.html))

**Assessment**

**Outcome 1:**

Students interpret graphs in order to analyze changes in the atmosphere over time.

**Outcome 2:**

Students use data to determine cause and effect.

**Outcome 3:**

Students use data collected over time to identify trends and make predictions.

<b>Evaluation Rubric</b>			
Completes the chart in the Academic Notebook.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Accurately identifies the changes and patterns on a graph.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Matches causes and effects.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Uses data to identify trends and make predictions.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>24</b>		

### Activity Three

### Organizing, Analyzing and Communicating Data (50 minutes)

#### College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 1, 2, 7, 8; Writing – 1, 7, 8

Model drawing conclusions from data by asking students the following guiding questions.

Tell students, **Use the data collected during the climate model simulation in Activity 2 to create a concise report illustrating your findings in the space provided in the Academic Notebook on page 76. This should include a summary of trends indicated by the data and a brief analysis of this data and its implications. You should also draw conclusions about the impact of humans on Earth’s atmosphere. If you need more space, use additional paper for your report and graphics.**

To support students in writing this report:

**Refer to your graphic organizer (data table) from Activity 2 and discuss the answer in small groups** (2–4 students). Ask students to share responses and record very brief notes on a board. (Students should be able to refer to these notes to assist them in their own writing.)

Questions for discussion and reflection:

1. **What trends or patterns do you see in the data?** (Students should be able to recognize that concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> increases and that average global temperature increases.)
2. **Does the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emission affect these trends?** If so, how? (Students should notice that concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> **always** increases and average global temperature **always** increases, no matter what the rate of emission is. However, it may be necessary to prompt them to recognize that when the rate of emission increases, the rate of increase in these two factors also increases.)
3. **Brainstorm sources of CO<sub>2</sub>.** (Students may know that humans and animals exhale extra CO<sub>2</sub>. It may be necessary to point out that anything that burns produces CO<sub>2</sub>. This information should enable them to add burning of gasoline, oil, gas, wood, etc. to the list.)
4. **How do humans impact the composition of the atmosphere?** (increase CO<sub>2</sub>)
5. **What other global impact is caused by CO<sub>2</sub> emission?** (increased average global temperature)

### Assessment

#### Outcome 1:

Students interpret graphs in order to analyze changes in the atmosphere over time.

#### Outcome 2:

Students use data to determine cause and effect.

#### Outcome 3:

Students use data collected over time to identify trends and make predictions.

Evaluation Rubric			
Report summarizes the data collected.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Report provides analysis of the data.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Report concludes with the impact on earth's atmosphere.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Data is represented graphically.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Report is written in readable prose.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>24</b>		

**Teacher Checklist**

Use this list to ensure that you have completed all of the lesson components.

- 1. Asked students to analyze a graph showing the composition of the Earth's atmosphere over time.
- 2. Asked students to use textual information to create a graphic organizer to explain causes and effects for changes in Earth's atmosphere over time, as illustrated in the original graph.
- 3. Instructed students to explore human impacts on the composition of the atmosphere, using a simulation.
- 4. Asked students to use a data-base simulation to draw conclusions about human impact and choices.
- 5. Asked students to organize and analyze large data sets in order to draw conclusions.
- 6. Directed students to reflect on their learning by completing the essential question graphic organizer at the beginning of the unit.

## Lesson 7

# Taking Tests in Science

### Overview

This lesson helps students learn to prepare for, take, and learn from a science test. Students will generate their own test review by thinking about the types of questions teachers ask, the amount of material they need to know, and the strategies that will help them master the material. By creating their own test review rather than relying on the teacher to supply a review, students must be able to select the information to be learned and create a way to learn it. In this lesson, they will learn a strategy to help them generate effective test reviews.

### Outcomes

1. Students utilize strategies to generate their own test reviews.
2. Students learn to organize concepts as a way to comprehend science processes.
3. Students use a concept map to prepare for a test.
4. Students take a multiple-choice and short-answer test.
5. Students evaluate their own test performance.

## College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)

### Reading

- 2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- 7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).

### Writing

- 2a Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- 2d Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

## Skill Cluster 2: The Reading Process

### Science Epistemology:

Ability to understand the underlying idea that science is an attempt to build understandings through constructed models and as approximations, findings are subject to revision, and that science knowledge is constructed incrementally using peer critique and public dissemination

### Scientific Terminology:

Ability to locate and understand scientific words and phrases that identify key concepts and facts, processes, or information

### Scientific Processes:

Ability to understand and use scientific processes as a way to answer questions and evaluate text information

### Organizing Notes:

Ability to organize and synthesize information

Multiple Representations: Ability to read texts using multiple representations including diagrams, charts, tables, models, oral and written text

### Skill Cluster 3: Transition to Writing

1. Bridging Conversation: Ability to transition from reading or researching phase to the writing phase

### Materials

- Readings from Lessons 1–6
- Inspiration Software Website  
<http://www.inspiration.com/inspiration-science-examples>
- Science Test  
The test can be found on the SREB website resources. A digital copy of the test is in the teacher folder and should be copied for students. Because it is a test, it cannot be included in the academic notebook
- Test Evaluation

**Time Frame:** 190 minutes

### Targeted Vocabulary:

The vocabulary students have learned in Lessons 1–6

## Activity One

## Generating a Concept Map (Approx. 90 minutes)

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 2, 7; Writing – 2a, 2d**

**Students will generate their own test review.** Rather than using a teacher-generated review, students will work together to create a review that covers all of the material up to this point. Students will learn a strategy to help them create the review: concept maps.

Concept maps help you organize the information learned. In the center of the map is the big concept or idea. Surrounding the big concept or idea are issues related to it. Off of each of the related issues is information to support those issues. A completed concept map can be used to prepare for exams. Ask students to turn to page 78 in their Academic Notebooks.

Adapted from Nist & Holschuh, 2012, College Success Strategies, 4th edition)

**How do you use maps to study?**

**When you study your map, you can begin by rehearsing one concept at a time. Then cover up everything except the main concept, and begin to talk the information through. Say the related material and then check your accuracy. Focus on how the concepts are related to each other because that is the major strength of mapping.**

Show the Classification of Six Kingdoms and Newton's Laws of Motion concept maps from the Inspiration website. Discuss the advantages of using concept maps to organize key concepts when studying. Ask students to work with a partner to come up with the big concept or idea for the middle of the map and the issues surrounding the big concept. If possible, allow students to develop their concept maps using Inspiration. If not, there is space on page 78 in the Academic Notebook for students to draw their maps. Before allowing students to move on, have each pair share their creations. As the students share, write out the blueprint for the main concept and related issues for the class to see and make additions as needed. Once the blueprint is complete (Big concept – The Changing Earth and Supporting concepts – Earth's Composition, Plate Tectonics, Rock Cycle, Weathering and Erosion, and Atmospheric Changes), allow the students time to finish the concept map by providing details for the related topics. After the groups have completed their maps, have them choose two other groups to share their map with and make additions if needed. The teacher should review the concept maps created and provide feedback using the rubric provided. This ensures that students study all relevant material for the unit test.

Review the sample rubric on page 79 of the Academic Notebook used to assess the effectiveness of the concept map.

<b>Concept Mapping</b>			
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Approaching Expectation (1-4 marks)</b>	<b>Meeting Expectation (1-4 marks)</b>	<b>Exceeding Expectation (1-4 marks)</b>
<b>Concepts (Knowledge)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient number of concepts selected related to topic</li> <li>• Arrangement of concepts demonstrates little understanding of relationship between them</li> <li>• Relationships between concepts are weak</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptable number of concepts selected, with some relationships to topic</li> <li>• Arrangement of concepts demonstrates some understanding of relationship between them</li> <li>• Relationships make some logical sense</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most concepts and all significant concepts selected, and they clearly relate to the topic</li> <li>• Arrangement of concepts demonstrates complete and insightful understanding of relationship between them</li> <li>• Relationships make logical sense, with few errors</li> </ul>
<b>Hierarchical Structure (Communications)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only a few concepts connected in a hierarchical structure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some concepts connected in a hierarchical structure moving from major ideas to minor ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most or all concepts connected in a hierarchical structure moving from more complex to less complex, and on to specific concepts</li> </ul>
<b>Linkages (Thinking)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few relationships indicated by connecting lines</li> <li>• Only a few lines labeled with linking words</li> <li>• Many errors in the linking words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some relationships indicated by connecting lines</li> <li>• Some lines labeled with linking words</li> <li>• Some errors in the linking words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most or all relationships indicated by connecting lines</li> <li>• All lines labeled with linking words</li> <li>• Most or all linking words are accurate and varied</li> </ul>
<b>Cross Links (Application)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cross links used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few cross links are used to illustrate straightforward connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross links show complex relationships between two or more distinct segments of the concept map</li> </ul>



**Activity Two**

**Test Review (30 minutes)**

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 7; Writing – 2d**

**Have students take out their concept maps created in an earlier class, and individually work outward from the main concept to review the material.**

After students review using the concept map on their own, place students with a partner and have them talk through the map they created. Then the partner will talk through their map.

**A “talk-through” is a method of preparing and reviewing for an exam that involves practicing and rehearsing aloud the key ideas of a text or science process. A talk-through is very similar to a lecture that you would give someone. In fact, when giving a talk-through, you should imagine being a teacher giving a lecture to students who know very little about the topic you are teaching. You will complete your talk-through the way you completed your map. Begin with the main concept, then the supporting concepts and the details of those supporting concepts. Your partner will have your map so they can tell if you have covered the information needed. Once you have completed this task, then you and your partner will swap roles.**

**Assessment**

**Outcome 1:**

Students utilize strategies to generate their own test reviews.

**Outcome 2:**

Students learn to organize concepts as a way to comprehend science processes.

**Outcome 3:**

Students use their concept map to review for the test.

<b>Evaluation Rubric</b>			
Creates a concept map based on unit information.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Participates in a talk-through to review the concepts one at a time.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Checks for accuracy after each concept.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Completed the process for studying all important concepts.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>20</b>		

**Activity Three** Taking the Science Test (50 minutes)

Students will have 45 minutes to take the test individually.

**Assessment**

**Outcome 4:**

Students take a science test.

**Activity Four** Evaluating the Science Test (10 minutes)

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 2**

Once students have received feedback on the test, ask them to fill out the test evaluation that is located in their Academic Notebooks on page 81.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 81

**Text Evaluation**

1. What went right? Analyze the test to discuss what you did well and what helped your thinking about these concepts.
2. What went wrong? Analyze the test to discuss areas you might want to work on. In this analysis:  
*Think about the errors you made and diagnose the nature of your difficulties as they relate to the concepts learned, problem solving expected, or your beliefs about science and/or science learning. Note: don't just describe a difficulty; you need to analyze your thinking. (Example: A poor diagnosis would be, "I was confused" or "I picked the wrong answer.") A good diagnosis would provide a reason for the errors: "I thought that the Earth's crust and lithosphere were the same."*
3. What will I do differently next time? Conduct an overall assessment of your performance. This is where you will look for patterns to your errors and think about particular aspects of the test that may have been difficult for you – types of questions you missed, general concepts that were difficult, etc. In your assessment, write about how understanding these issues will impact your science test taking in the future.

**Assessment**

**Outcome 5:**

Students evaluate their test performance.

Evaluation Rubric			
Answers each question thoroughly.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>6</b>		

(Teacher Note: You can assign points for responses to individual questions.)

**Teacher  
Checklist**

Use this list to ensure that you have completed all of the lesson components.

- 1. Introduced the concept map strategy.
- 2. Discussed how to create a concept map.
- 3. Asked students to share and talk through their concept map with a partner and allowed time for the partner to do the same.
- 4. Gave the students the test.
- 5. Graded the tests and returned them to the students.
- 6. Asked students to evaluate their experiences preparing for and taking a science test.

## Lesson 8

# Analyzing Cause and Effect

### Overview

This lesson helps students begin to synthesize the many ways in which the Earth has changed, and to analyze the human impact on our changing Earth. Students will take a “case study” approach to analyzing different environmental scenarios that have changed the Earth in some way. They will analyze that case, looking for root causes as a way to determine if or how humans are negatively impacting the Earth. This will build critical thinking and analysis strategies that will be transferred in the unit task in Lesson 9.

### Outcomes

1. Students model the analysis strategies in a sample case study to determine the root cause and human impact.
2. Students apply that same level of analysis to investigate other cases of environmental change.
3. Students use the analysis to write an argumentative essay in which they argue the impact of humans on environmental changes.

## College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)

### Reading

- 1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.
- 2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the texts distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

### Writing

- 1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
  - 1a Introduce claim(s) about a topic or issue, acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
  - 1b Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.
  - 1c Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

### Skill Cluster 1: Preparing for the Task

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**Task Analysis:**

Ability to understand and explain the task prompt and rubric

**Project Planning:**

Ability to plan so that the task is accomplished on time

### Skill Cluster 2: The Reading Process

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**Active Reading:**

Ability to select appropriate texts and understand necessary reading strategies needed for the task

**Essential Vocabulary:**

Ability to identify and master terms essential to understanding of a text

**Note-taking:**

Ability to read purposefully and select relevant information; to summarize and/or paraphrase

**Organizing:**

Ability to prioritize and narrow supporting information

**Academic Integrity:**

Ability to use and credit sources appropriately

### Skill Cluster 3: Transition to Writing

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**Organizing Thinking:**

Ability to organize notes for writing

### Skill Cluster 4: Writing Process

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**Prewriting:**

Ability to organize ideas in logical format including creating a controlling idea and focus for the writing

**Drafting:**

Ability to put thoughts on paper in cohesive, organized fashion

### Materials

- Environmental Impact Analysis Chart
- Coral Reef Adventures video clip (min 15:11-19:03)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYtK8O6uuFY>
- Acid Rain article  
<http://www.nps.gov/nama/blogs/Acid-Rains-Slow-Dissolve.htm>
- Global Warming article  
<http://www.actionbioscience.org/environment/chanton.html>
- Fertilizer Runoff article  
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fertilizer-runoff-overwhelms-streams/>
- Ozone Depletion article  
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/05/100505-science-environment-ozone-hole-25-years/>

**Time Frame:** 130 minutes

### Activity One

### Modeling the Cause-and-Effect Analysis (20 minutes)

#### College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 1, 2

In this lesson, students will investigate several case studies in order to develop a broader understanding of the impact humans have on our changing Earth. **Explain that oftentimes scientists can use a “case study” approach to investigate a particular issue and to analyze broader concepts like human impact on the environment.**

To begin, the class will watch the video clip from Coral Reef Adventure (min 15:11-19:03, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYtK8O6uuFY>) Model with students the thought process needed to complete the graphic organizer after watching the short video clip. Start by asking the class, **“What was the environmental change that you were exploring?”** Students will explain that the coral reef bleaching and dying was the initial problem. Then ask the students, **“What were some of the causes the divers thought may be causing the coral bleaching?”** Students will mention warmer waters and overfishing. Then **ask students to narrow that list to the root cause.** Students should mention the logging occurring upstream, which is causing debris and silt to infiltrate the waters of the coral reef, causing the coral to die. Finally, **ask students to reflect individually on the human impact of this environmental change. Then, ask students to share out their reflections.** They will share that the human logging operation upstream is creating dirty water that is suffocating the coral. Push them to consider the other stresses put on the reefs – warming sea waters and overfishing. What role do humans play in those additional stresses? **Lead a class discussion about the thought process of analyzing this particular case in order to determine root causes and draw conclusions about the role human impact plays on environmental changes.** This is something they will continue to do individually throughout the rest of this lesson, and this approach of analyzing cause and effect will help them in the unit culminating task.

Students will chart their thinking using the graphic organizer in their Academic Notebooks on page 83.

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 83

**Human Impact Analysis Chart**

Environmental Change	Possible Causes	Root Cause	Human Impact

**Assessment**

**Outcome 1:**

Students model the analysis strategies in a sample case study to determine the root cause and human impact.

Evaluation Rubric			
Is engaged in watching video and takes notes.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Participates in the discussion of the video.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Shares reflections.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Completes graphic organizer.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>24</b>		

**Activity Two**

**Case Study Analysis of Human Impact on Environmental Changes (60 minutes)**

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Reading – 1, 2**

Ask students to choose another case to analyze (access articles using the following links: Acid Rain article: <http://www.nps.gov/nama/blogs/Acid-Rains-Slow-Dissolve.htm>, Global Warming article: <http://www.actionbioscience.org/environment/chanton.html>, Fertilizer Runoff article: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fertilizer-runoff-overwhelms-streams/>, Ozone Depletion article: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/05/100505-science-environment-ozone-hole-25-years>). Texts of the articles can be found on pages 84–94 in the Academic Notebook.

**Ask students to complete the same analysis organizer (on page 83) used with the class example, as they analyze the human impact on that particular environmental change.**

Once everyone has finished reading and completing the graphic organizer individually, divide students into small groups, with each member of the group having read a different article. **Ask students to take turns describing their particular case and how they analyzed the root cause the role of human impact in that particular situation.** As students are sharing in their small groups, assess students’ participation using the following checklist:

1. Does the student demonstrate knowledge about their particular case?
2. Is the student clear in describing the environmental change and the possible causes?
3. Does the student identify how they came to the conclusion about the root cause?
4. Does the student offer a rationale for how they determined the degree of human impact on that particular environmental change?

**Assessment**

**Outcome 2:**

Students apply that same level of analysis to investigate other cases of environmental change.

Evaluation Rubric			
Demonstrate knowledge about their particular case.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Clearly describes the environmental change and the possible causes.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Identifies how her or she came to the conclusion about the root cause.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Offers a rationale for how he or she determined the degree of human impact on that particular environmental change.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>12</b>		



Activity Three

Reflection on Human Impact on the Environment (50 minutes)

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Writing – 1a-c**

In this activity, students will synthesize their learning from the case studies in order to write an argumentative essay about the impact of humans on environmental changes. This assignment is a timed “on-demand” writing exercise that will help build students’ experience in writing synthesis essays. Students will engage in the full writing process, including pre-writing, drafting, revisions and peer editing, in Lesson 9.

**Direct students to read about this essay in their Academic Notebooks:**

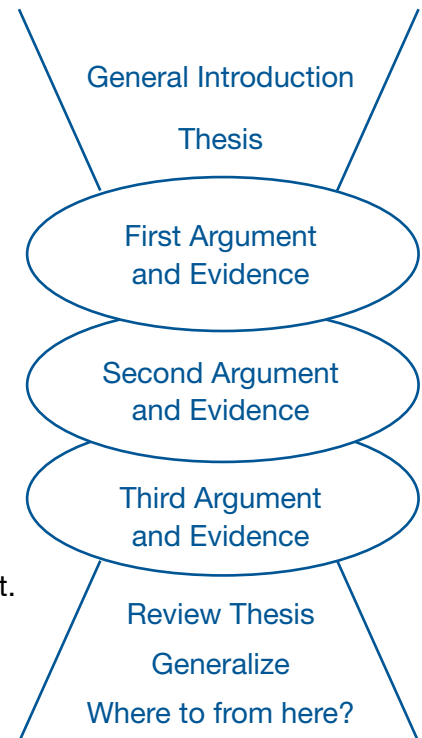
FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 95

**Argumentative Essay: Human Impact on the Environment**

After researching case studies of environmental changes, write an essay that argues the causes of the environmental problems and explains the effects humans on the environment. What conclusions can you draw? Support your discussion with evidence from the texts.

Your essay should consist of five paragraphs and be no more than two pages in length and should follow a basic format:

1. Introduce the environmental changes that were examined in the case studies.
2. Lead to your thesis (argument) on the impact humans have on these environmental changes.
3. Support your thesis with three arguments or reasons, each with specific evidence from the text.
4. Draw a conclusion that refers back to your thesis and generalizes about the role of humans in changing the environment as a whole.
5. Based on your conclusions, what implications does this have for humans in making decisions regarding the environment?



**Ask students to complete a pre-writing activity using the graphic to organize their thoughts (pages 96–98).**

**Ask students to share their pre-writing organizer with a partner to get quick feedback on their writing plan.**

**Allow students 50 minutes to complete the final draft of their essay on pages 99–100 in the Academic Notebook. Remind students to review their essay drafts using the scoring rubric on page 101 in their Academic Notebooks.**

## Assessment

### Outcome 3:

Students use the analysis to write a cause-and-effect essay in which they argue the impact of humans on environmental changes.

Score the essay using the rubric on page 87 of your teacher’s guide. You could score the essay as an assignment worth a maximum of 16 points per the rubric, or give the essay a greater weight by using the conversion table on page 88 to assign a grade. Remember that the culminating project is also an essay supported by evidence and visuals that will be scored using the same rubric and conversion chart, and should have the greatest weight for the unit. Whichever way you assess the paper, students will need to have a score of 1-4 for each of the indicators in the rubric in order to complete Activity 1 in the next Lesson when they review their work.

### Teacher Checklist

Use this list to ensure that you have completed all of the lesson components.

- 1. Showed the Coral Reef Adventure video clip and modeled the process of cause-and-effect analysis.
- 2. Directed students to follow the same analysis protocol on the other case studies provided.
- 3. Divided students into small groups so they could share out information from their assigned case and gather information about other cases as well.
- 4. Introduced the argumentative essay writing prompt.
- 5. Graded the argumentative essay using the rubric provided, offering feedback to students.
- 6. Directed students to reflect on their learning by completing the essential question graphic organizer at the beginning of the unit.

## Lesson 9

# Synthesizing Information to Make Predictions

### Overview

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Students have spent this unit learning about the many processes that can change the Earth. In this culminating lesson, students will synthesize that learning in order to make predictions about what the Earth will look like in 1 million years. This prediction must include evidence to support the claim.

### Outcomes

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1. Students review a previous writing and make improvements in preparation for writing the final project.
2. Students review their graphic organizer in which they have tracked their learning and its application to the unit essential question, to complete the prediction planning page.
3. Students write a rough draft of their prediction essay.
4. Students complete a peer-evaluation.
5. Students revise their piece based on peer feedback.
6. Students submit their final draft.

## College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)

### Writing

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- 1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
  - a. Introduce claim(s) about a topic or issue, acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
  - b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.
  - c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
  - d. Establish and maintain a formal style.
  - e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

- 4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- 5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
- 7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
- 8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
- 9 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- 10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline – specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## LDC

## Skills Activity List

**Skill Cluster 4: Writing Process**

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**1 Drafting:**

The ability to synthesize information from multiple sources into one document

**2 Addressing a prompt:**

The ability to answer an assigned prompt with information supported by evidence from texts, experiments or information provided from data

**3 Revising/Editing:**

The ability to examine written work based on a set of criteria and make changes to improve a written document

The ability to edit a draft document for errors in convention and format and make appropriate corrections

**4 Prepare a final draft:**

The ability to develop a final draft of a written product based on research, peer review and attention to format and project criteria

**5 Self-Assessment:**

The ability to evaluate one's own work and identify areas of growth on future projects

### Materials

- Copy of scored essay on global warming
- Copy of the scoring rubric

**Time Frame:** 140 minutes

## Activity One

### Synthesizing data to make a prediction (20 minutes)

#### College and Career Readiness Standards: Writing – 1, 4, 5, 7

**In the final lesson, you will pull together your understanding about the factors that shape the Earth, in order to create a model of what the Earth will look like in 1 million years. You will write a justification essay in which you argue the validity of your model. Support your prediction with evidence from the texts.**

**In the previous lesson, you wrote an argumentative essay about human impact on the environment. We will examine the results of that writing to help you succeed on the final project. Trade your essay with a partner and review your scores on each of the four criteria used to score your paper. Refer to the scoring rubric on page 101 in your Academic Notebook as you discuss the essay with your partner.**

You may wish to model this process with a student volunteer’s paper to demonstrate what to look for and how to address the issue.

Step 1: Locate a score on your paper for a criterion that is lower than 4.

Step 2: Look for areas in the paper that would be scored by the criterion (controlling idea, what sources were used, etc.) and make a recommendation on how your partner could improve in this area.

Step 3: Rewrite the section of the essay that was recommended for change.

Step 4: Exchange your rewrite with a different partner and have him or her score this section using the rubric.

## Assessment

### Outcome 1:

Students review a previous writing and make improvements in preparation for writing the final project.

Evaluation Rubric			
Reviews a partner’s paper and makes a recommendation for improvement.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Makes a revision to a portion of the paper.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Evaluates the revision of another partner and scores on rubric.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>9</b>		

Activity Two

Organizing Information

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Writing – 1, 4**

Divide the students into groups of 3-4. Ask the students to locate in their Academic Notebooks the graphic organizer from Lesson 1, Activity 3 (pages 9–13), on which they should have been entering information from subsequent lessons on how the earth may change and may look in the future. **In your groups, review the information in your graphic organizer and review details from each of the lessons and predictions that were made. Also, review the sources for the information and evidence to support your predictions.** During this activity, move around the room to see how complete the graphic organizers are at this time and who has information to share. Provide assistance with struggling students who may not have all the information or it is not well organized. Monitor who is contributing to the group work and provide guidance on how students should document the evidence that they will need to support their predictions in the final project.

Assessment

**Outcome 2:**

Students review their graphic organizers in which they have tracked their learning and its application to the unit essential question, to complete the prediction planning page.

Evaluation Rubric			
Has up-to-date details in the ongoing graphic organizer.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Is actively engaged in the review and sharing of information.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Correctly identifies the sources of all evidence to support prediction.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>9</b>		

Activity Three

Drafting the final project

**College and Career Readiness Standards: Writing – 1, 8, 9, 10**

**In this activity, you will begin to draft your essay to support your prediction of what the Earth will look like in 1 million years. You have collected your information and evidence in your graphic organizers. In Lesson 8 you wrote an essay and followed a format to develop your work. Let’s revisit that format with a few adjustments:**

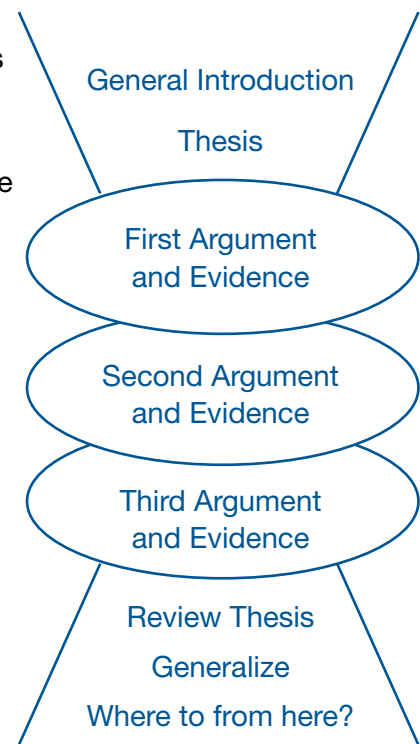
Prompt: What will the Earth look like in 1 million years? After researching informational texts on factors that change the Earth’s surface, create a model of what the Earth will look like in 1 million years, and write an essay in which you argue the validity of your model. Support your discussion with evidence from the texts.

**Use the graphic organizer in the Academic Notebook on pages 103–105 to organize your predictions and your evidence as you plan your model and justification essay.**

FROM THE STUDENT ACADEMIC NOTEBOOK p 106

Your final product should consist of a minimum of five paragraphs, include diagrams, maps and visuals of how the earth will look, and should follow a basic format:

1. Introduce the prediction that you are making in the first paragraph.
2. In the next paragraphs, provide the reasons for your predictions and cite sources that support your prediction.
3. Support your thesis with arguments or reasons, each with specific evidence from the text.
4. Include diagrams, maps and/or visuals that demonstrate how you feel the Earth will look in 1 million years. Cite sources to support your visuals.
5. Draw a conclusion that refers back to your prediction and the reasons that support your position.



Ask students to complete a pre-writing activity using the graphic to organize their thoughts.

**Ask students to share their pre-writing organizer with a partner to get quick feedback on their writing plan.**

**Based on this feedback, students should construct a first draft of their model and essay on pages 107–108 in their Academic Notebooks.** As students draft their essays, direct them to the information provided in Lesson 4 on scientific diagrams. Most importantly, all diagrams, maps and/or visuals provided in the final project should be properly labeled and explained. Conduct a peer review of the essay drafts and supporting materials using the scoring rubric on page 101 of the Academic Notebook. Have students revise their work and submit to you on your assigned due date.

**Assessment**

**Outcome 4:**

Students complete a peer evaluation.

**Outcome 5:**

Students revise their piece based on peer feedback.

**Outcome 6:**

Students submit their final drafts.

Evaluation Rubric			
Completes review of two other essays, makes comments, and signs paper.	No	Somewhat	Yes
Makes revisions to the draft and submits a final paper.	No	Somewhat	Yes
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>12</b>		

Essay Scoring Rubric							
Scoring Elements	Emerging		Approaches Expectations		Meets Expectations		Advanced
	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
<b>Controlling Idea</b>	Attempts to address the prompt and make a claim, but it is unclear or unfocused.		Addresses the prompt appropriately and makes a claim, with an uneven focus.		Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately and establishes and maintains a clear claim.		Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately and establishes and maintains a clear, generally convincing claim.
<b>Development/ Use of Sources</b>	Refers to details from sources, with irrelevant, incomplete, or inaccurate elements.		Includes relevant details, examples, and/or quotations from sources to support and develop the argument, with minimal explanation or minor errors in explanation.		Accurately explains relevant details, examples, and/or quotations from sources to support and develop the argument.		Thoroughly and accurately explains well-chosen and relevant details, examples, and/or quotations from sources to effectively support and develop the argument.
<b>Organization</b>	Lacks an evident structure. Makes unclear connections among claim, reasons, and evidence.		Uses a basic organizational structure to develop argument. Attempts to use transition words to connect ideas, with minor lapses in coherence or organization.		Uses an appropriate organizational structure to develop argument. Uses transitional phrases to clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.		Maintains an appropriate, logical organizational structure to develop a cohesive argument. Uses varied syntax and transitional phrases that clarify the precise relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.
<b>Conventions</b>	Lacks control of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Uses inappropriate language or tone. Rarely or never cites sources.		Demonstrates an uneven command of standard English conventions. Uses language and tone with some inaccurate, inappropriate, or uneven features. Inconsistently cites sources.		Demonstrates a command of standard English conventions, with few errors. Uses language and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose. Cites sources with minor formatting errors.		Demonstrates and maintains a well-developed command of standard English conventions, with few errors. Consistently uses language and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose. Cites sources using appropriate format.



Final Essay Conversion Guide: Give a score for each of the categories (1-4 including the options of 1.5, 2.5, etc.). Add the 4 scores and use the conversion guide below to calculate the essay grade.

<b>Score</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Grade</b>
4	25%	10	63%
4.5	28%	10.5	66%
4	25%	11	69%
4.5	28%	11.5	72%
5	31%	12	75%
5.5	34%	12.5	78%
6	38%	13	81%
6.5	41%	13.5	84%
7	44%	14	88%
7.5	47%	14.5	91%
8	50%	15	94%
8.5	53%	15.5	97%
9	56%	16	100%
9.5	59%		

## Unit 1 References

### Lesson 1

“How Scientists Think: Fostering Creativity in Problem Solving,” <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/09/090921162150.htm>

“Paleogeography and Geologic Evolution of North America,” <http://cpgeosystems.com/nam.html>

Tracks image. <http://mariakasmirli.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Tracks.jpg>

### Lesson 2

“Earth’s Atmosphere: Composition, Climate & Weather,” <http://www.space.com/17683-earth-atmosphere.html>

“How Many Licks Does It take to Get to The Center?” <http://utahscience.oremjr.alpine.k12.ut.us/sciber00/7th/earth/sciber/erlayers.htm>

“Mountain Maker, Earth Shaker: you try it,” <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/tryit/tectonics/intro.html>

“Scientific Root Words, Prefixes and Suffixes,” <http://www.cforks.org/Downloads/RootWords.pdf>

### Lesson 3

“Alfred Wegener (1850-1930),” [http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Wegener/wegener\\_4.php](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Wegener/wegener_4.php)

“CER: Evidence-Based Response (chart),” <https://magic.piktochart.com/output/3321151-untitled-infographic>

“Earth, The, 3D: Convection Currents and Tectonic Plates,” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpoko\\_l34ZE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpoko_l34ZE)

“Granite and Basalt,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SS61JBTxOw>

“Plate Tectonics,” Oceanography 10, T. James Noyes, El Camino College, [http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/tnoyes/Readings/11A\\_\\_R-Plate\\_Tectonics\\_Reading.pdf](http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/tnoyes/Readings/11A__R-Plate_Tectonics_Reading.pdf)

“Plate Tectonics Puzzle,” <http://www.amnh.org/explore/curriculum-collections/dinosaurs-ancient-fossils-new-discoveries/plate-tectonics-puzzle>

Vigil, Jose F., This Dynamic Planet, U.S. Geological Survey, the Smithsonian Institution, and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/dynamic/Vigil.html>

### Lesson 4

“How is Rock Continually Recycled in the Rock Cycle?” <http://education.seattlepi.com/rock-continually-recycled-rock-cycle-4431.html>

“Rock Cycle Animation,” <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/ks3/gsl/education/resources/rockcycle/page3892.html>

### Lesson 5

“Erosion,” <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/erosion/>

“Landforms,” <http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-landforms.html>

“Weathering,” <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/weathering/>

### Lesson 6

“Atmosphere, The,” <http://teachertech.rice.edu/Participants/louviere/history.html>

“Atmospheric Changes Graph,” <http://www.scientificpsychic.com/etc/timeline/atmosphere-composition.gif>

“Evolution of the Atmosphere: Composition, Structure and Energy,” [http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange1/current/lectures/Perry\\_Samson\\_lectures/evolution\\_atm/](http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange1/current/lectures/Perry_Samson_lectures/evolution_atm/)

“How Did Earth’s Atmosphere Form?” <http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/atmosphere-formation/>

“Very, Very Simple Climate Model, The,” [http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/climate/cli\\_model.html](http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/climate/cli_model.html)

### Lesson 7

Concept Map Examples, <http://www.inspiration.com/inspiration-science-examples>

### Lesson 8

“Acid Rain’s Slow Dissolve,” <http://www.nps.gov/nama/blogs/Acid-Rains-Slow-Dissolve.htm>

“Coral Reef Adventure,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYtK8O6uuFY>

“Fertilizer Runoff Overwhelms Streams and Rivers--Creating Vast “Dead Zones,” <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fertilizer-runoff-overwhelms-streams/>

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“Whatever Happened to the Ozone Hole?” <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/05/100505-science-environment-ozone-hole-25-years/>

SREB Readiness Courses  
*Transitioning to college and careers*

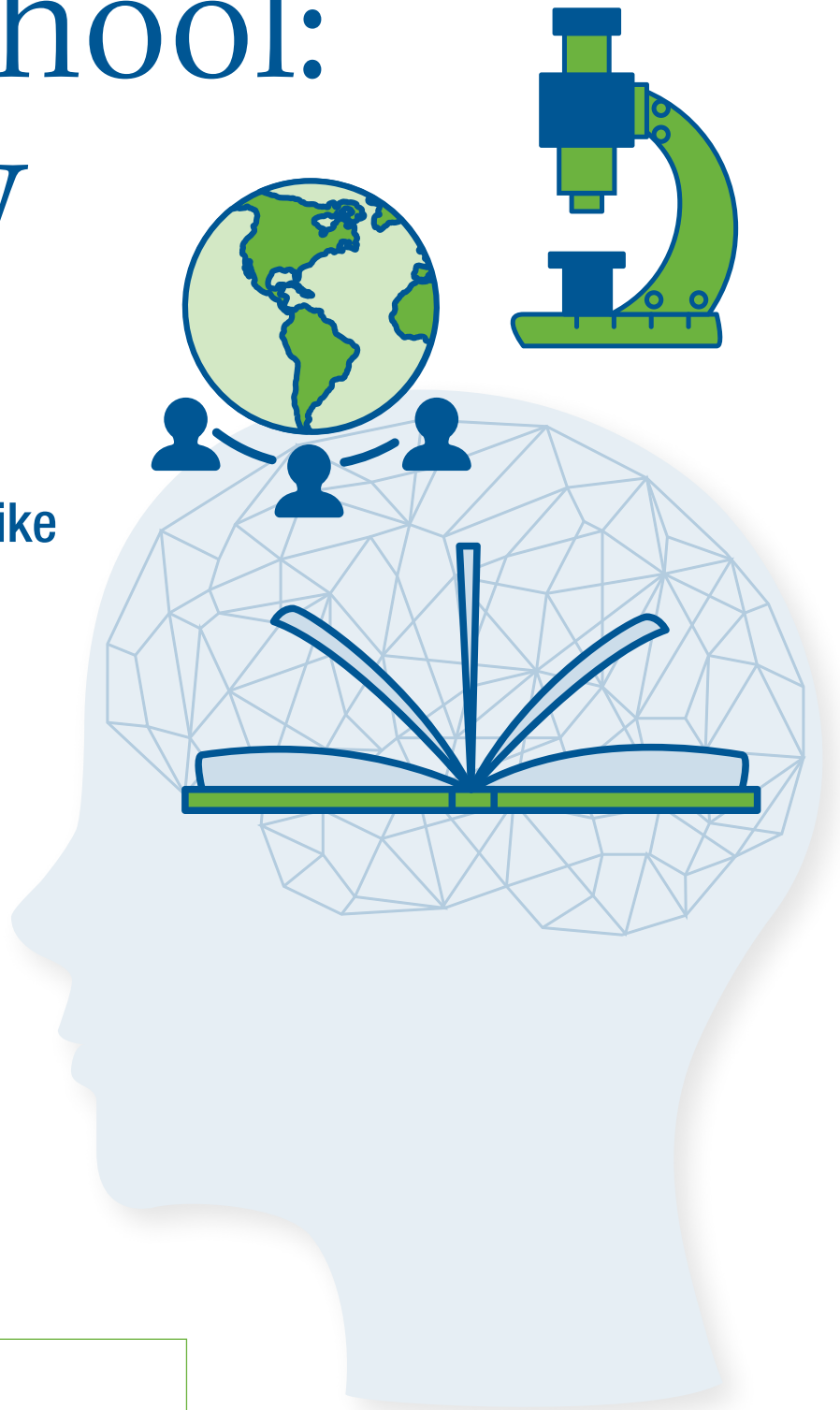
# Ready for High School: Literacy

**Academic Notebook**

**Science Unit 1**

**What will the Earth look like  
in 1 million years?**

*Informational Text*



Name

## Unit 1

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# Course Overview

Welcome to the first disciplinary literacy science unit of the SREB Readiness Course — Ready for High School: Literacy. What does disciplinary literacy in science mean? According to Shanahan & Shanahan (2012), disciplinary literacy refers to the specialized skills and strategies needed to learn at higher levels in each discipline. That means that how people approach reading and writing in the sciences would differ from how they approach it in history, English, mathematics, or other fields. It also means that students need to learn more than the content in any particular discipline — they also need to learn how reading and writing are used within that field. So, disciplinary literacy in science in this unit will introduce you to the knowledge, skills, and tools used by scientists.

You will learn to “make explicit connections among the language of science, how science concepts are rendered in various text forms, and resulting science knowledge” by learning ways to “develop the proficiencies needed to engage in science inquiry, including how to read, write, and reason with the language, texts, and dispositions of science” (Pearson, Moje, Greenleaf, 2010). These ideas are the principal focus of this unit. While certainly the content covered in this course is important, a primary purpose of this unit is to equip you with the tools necessary to be more successful in your college coursework. You will take part in many reading and writing activities aimed at improving your disciplinary literacy in science. To that end, the creators of the course have developed this Academic Notebook.

More specifically, in this unit you will apply the concepts of disciplinary literacy to science in order to learn how to approach reading and writing as a scientist. You will focus on Earth Science, specifically processes that change the surface of the Earth over time, as you learn skills and strategies that will allow them to access the texts and make meaning of the content. You will recognize how scientists approach vocabulary using Greek and Latin root words. You will access multiple texts in order to gain understanding of a complex scientific process in order to construct an explanation. You will practice transforming information from text to diagram, a skill very important in understanding science texts. You will engage in an inquiry activity in which you model various processes that can alter the surface of the Earth, as well as develop your own model of a process they research.

An important skill in science literacy is the ability to analyze large bodies of data, so you will learn strategies to do that, as well as to look for trends such as cause and effect. Also, in preparation for science at the high school level, you will learn study strategies for approaching science tests. The unit culminates in a writing task in which you will synthesize what you have learned about processes that change the Earth’s surface in order to make a prediction about what the surface of the Earth will look like in 1 million years. You will support your prediction with evidence from the texts and activities used throughout the unit.

## Purposes of the Academic Notebook

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The Academic Notebook has three roles in this course. First, the notebook provides you with a starter kit of tools aimed to prepare you for high school science courses. These tools will assist you in learning and comprehending the information from the scientific text, animations, and lectures you receive in the class.

A second role of the notebook is to provide you with a personal space to record your work. The Academic Notebook is where you will take your notes for the class on any materials you are covering. For example, if you are reading an article in class, take notes in this notebook. If you are doing a lab, make your observations and notes here. Likewise, if you are listening to a lecture, take notes here. Use the tools in the resource portion of the notebook to assist you in organizing your notes.

The third and final role of the notebook is that of an assessment tool. Your instructor may periodically collect the notebooks and review your work to ensure that you are remaining on task and to assist you with any material that is causing you difficulty. Your instructor may also assign tasks to be completed in the notebook, such as in-class writing assignments. At the end of this six-week module, your instructor will review the contents of this notebook as part of your overall grade. Thus, it is important that you work seriously as this notebook becomes the record of your activity in this course.

# Helpful Hints for Science Literacy Success

## About Scientists: How do scientists think?

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As you will spend much of your time in class learning this on your own, it is best to be brief. In short, scientists learn by careful observation of the world around them to discover general principles. They do this through careful experimentation that results in data. Scientists use this data to draw conclusions. You likely have heard of the scientific method. Scientists use this method as a structured way to investigate the questions they have. An important use of the scientific method is to be able to replicate previous work. Scientists strive to organize, analyze, and explain things clearly. Scientists believe that science is an attempt to build understandings of the world and that science findings are tentative and subject to revision based on new understandings.

## About Scientists: What do scientists ask?

---

Scientists ask lots of questions about nature and the world around them. These are questions that you will hopefully come to ask upon completing this coursework, and the tools in the Resource Materials section of the Academic Notebook are intended to aid you in asking these questions.

Scientists are systematic when they ask questions. Scientific inquiry helps scientists answer questions through investigation. They begin with observations. They may start with big, broad questions: “Why? What’s going on? How is this explained?” They then may break a larger question into smaller parts to examine. They examine work that has already been done. They use the scientific method to hypothesize, test, analyze, and draw conclusions. This inquiry is often, cyclical with experience and observation leading to new hypotheses.

## Lesson 1

# Gateway Activity

### In this lesson, you will . . .

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1. Develop scientific practices of observation, inference, and questioning.
2. Observe reconstructed maps of the Earth over time to make inferences regarding ways in which the Earth has changed over time.
3. Use observation and inference about the changing Earth to develop questions about the processes that cause such changes.
4. Categorize questions into research topics that you need to investigate throughout the unit.
5. Review the unit as a whole, as well as the culminating project, and discuss the implications for learning science in this course and beyond.
6. Students understand the components of the culminating project.



Activity

**1** Animal Tracks: Observations and Inferences

Record your observations about each segment of the image:

1.

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2.

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3.

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**Reflect:**

Why is it important to distinguish between observations and inferences? Why is it particularly important in science to distinguish between the two?

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Lesson	What processes have shaped the Earth's surface in the past?	How might these processes impact what the Earth may look like in 1 million years?
2	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Lesson	What processes have shaped the Earth's surface in the past?	How might these processes impact what the Earth may look like in 1 million years?
5	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
6	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
8	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Activity

## 4 Disciplinary Literacy in Science:

Some of the disciplinary ways science is written and represented can make it a challenge. So before we start this unit, let's talk about two common science writing practices to look for in science text: *Long noun phrases* and *multiple representations*.

### Long noun phrases:

Example: Glass crack growth rate is associated with applied stress magnitude.

- Find the noun in this example sentence.

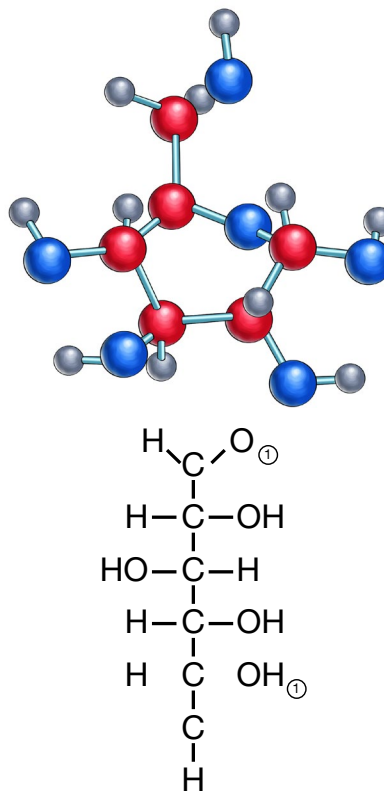
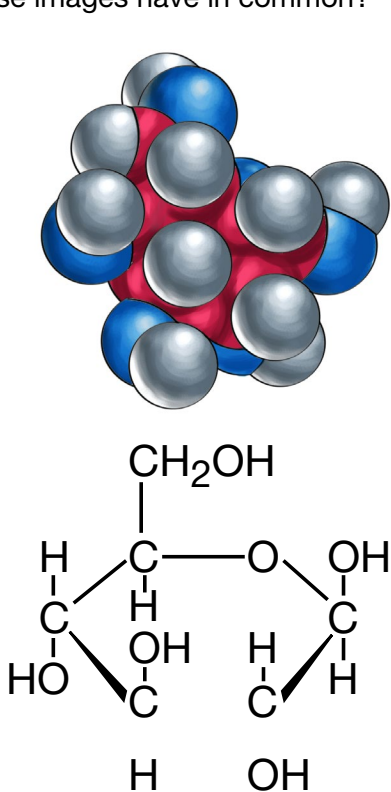
Science is filled with these noun phrases that help with the precision of ideas that are very important to scientists. Some other examples are:

- gene replacement therapy
- primate genome sequences
- the polymerase chain reaction laboratory technique

Being able to identify entire concepts by using a noun phrase is an essential skill for reading science and a skill we will continue to work on.

### Multiple Representations:

What do these images have in common?




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There is no one “right” way to represent molecules — which type a scientist uses depends on what he or she is trying to portray. However, you need to be able to see that they are all representing the same thing. You also need to be able to transform the information into other forms (for example, you should be able to view the molecule and write out the chemical structure).

In this unit we will learn several ways to transform science information from visual to text and back again.

### How Scientists Think: Fostering Creativity In Problem Solving

Sep. 22, 2009 — Profound discoveries and insights on the frontiers of science do not burst out of thin air but often arise from incremental processes of weaving together analogies, images, and simulations in a constrained fashion. In cutting-edge science, problems are often ill-defined and experimental data are limited.

To develop an understanding of the system under investigation, scientists build real-world models and make predictions with them. The models are tentative at first, but over time they are revised and refined, and can lead the community to novel problem solutions. Models, thus, play a big role in the creative thinking processes of scientists.

Dr. Nancy J. Nersessian has studied the cognitive processes that underlie scientific creativity by observing scientists at work in their laboratories. She says, “Solving problems at the frontiers of science involves complex cognitive processes. In reasoning with models, part of the process occurs in the mind and part in the real-world manipulation of the model. The problem is not solved by the scientist alone, but by the scientist — model combination. This is a highly creative cognitive process.” Her research is published in an upcoming issue of *Topics in Cognitive Science*.

Her study of the working methods of scientists helps in understanding how class and instructional laboratory settings can be improved to foster creativity, and how new teaching methods can be developed based on this understanding. These methods will allow science students to master model-based reasoning approaches to problem solving and open the field to many more who do not think of themselves as traditional “scientists.”

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/09/090921162150.htm>

## Lesson 2

# Making Sense of Science Terminology

### In this lesson, you will . . .

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1. Learn how to approach discipline-specific vocabulary.
2. Use the discipline-specific vocabulary to explain a science diagram.

Activity

## 1 Understanding Science Vocabulary

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Science terms originate from Greek and Latin languages. Scientists used word parts from those languages to create the terms we use today. By knowing the meaning of those word parts, you can determine the meaning of science vocabulary you come across in science textbooks or articles. In our first lesson, we are going to be learning about the layers of the Earth. This falls under the science Geology. Using your Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes handout, find the meanings of geo- and -logy. Geo means Earth and logy means study of, so Geology means the study of Earth. When breaking apart your vocabulary terms, remember that words can consist of three parts – prefix, root, and suffix. The root is the main part of a word. Prefixes, such as un- and dis-, can be added to the beginning of a root word. Suffixes like -ing and -less can be added to the end of the root word.

## SCIENTIFIC ROOT WORDS, PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

<http://www.succeedinscience.com/apbio/assignments/generalinfo/rootwords.pdf>

a- an- ab-; -able	not; without; lacking; deficient away from; out from capable of	cente- centi- centr-	pierce; hundredth; center	-err- erythro- -escent	wander; go astray red; becoming
ac- -aceous	to; toward of or pertaining to	cephal- cerat-	head horn	eso- eu-	inward; within; inner well; good; true; normal
acou- acous -	hear	cerebr-	brain	eury-	widen
ad- aden- adip-	to; toward gland fat	cervic- chel- chem-	neck claw dealing with chemicals	ex- extra- -fer-	out of; away from beyond; outside bear; carry; produce
aero- agri- -al alb-	air field; soil having the character of white	chir- chlor- chondr- chrom-; -chrome	hand green cartilage color	ferro- fibr- -fid; fiss- -flect -flex	iron fiber; thread split; divided into bend
alg-; -algia alto- ambi- ameb- amni- amphi- am- pho- amyl- ana- andro- anemo- ang- angi- ante- anter- antho- anti- anthropo- -ap- -aph- apo- ap- aqu- archaeo- -ary -arium arteri- arth- -ase aster- astr- -ate ather- -ation atmo- audi- aur- auto- bacter- bactr- barb- baro- bath- bene- bi- (Latin) bi- bio- (Greek) -blast-	pain high both change; alternation fetal membrane both starch up; back; again man; masculine wind choke; feel pain blood vessel; duct before; ahead of time front flower against; opposite man; human touch away from water primitive; ancient place for something artery joint; articulation forms names of enzymes star verb form - the act of... fatty deposit noun form - the act of... vapor hear ear self bacterium; stick; club beard weight depth; height well; good two; twice life; living sprout; germ; bud	chron- -chym- -cid- -cis - circa- circum- cirru- co- cocc- coel- coll- coni- contra- corp- cort- cortic- cosmo- cotyl- counter- crani- cresc- cret- crypt- -cul-; -cule cumul- cuti- cyan- -cycle; cycl- -cyst- cyt-; -cyte dactyl- de- deca- deci- deliquesc- demi- dendr- dent- derm- di- dipl- (Latin) di- dia- (Greek) dia- (Latin) digit- din- dis-	time juice cut; kill; fall around; about hairlike curls with; together seed; berry hollow glue cone against body outer layer world; order; form cup against skull begin to grow hidden; covered small; diminutive heaped skin blue ring; circle sac; pouch; bladder cell; hollow container finger away from; down ten tenth become fluid half tree tooth skin two; double through; across; apart day finger; toe terrible apart; out	flu- fluct-; flux foli- fract- -gam- gastr- geo- -gen -gine -gene- -gest- -glen- -glob- gloss- gluc- glyc- glut- gnath- -gon -grad- -gram; graph grav- -gross- gymno- gyn- gyr- -hal-; -hale halo- hapl- hecto- -helminth- hem- hemi- hepar- hepat- herb- hetero- hex- hibern- hidr- hipp- hist- holo- homo- (Latin)	flower flow leaf break marriage stomach land; earth producer; former origin; birth carry; produce; bear eyeball ball; round tongue sweet; sugar buttock jaw angle; corner step record; writing heavy thick naked; bare female ring; circle; spiral breathe; breath salt simple hundred worm blood half liver grass; plants different; other six winter sweat horse tissue entire; whole man; human

LESSON 2

Ready for High School: Literacy Ready . Science Unit 1

brachi-	arm	dorm-	sleep	homo- (Greek)	same; alike
brachy-	short	dors-	back	hort-	garden
brady-	slow	du- duo-	two	hydr-	water
branchi-	fin	-duct	lead	hygr-	moist; wet
brev-	short	dynam-	power	hyper-	above; beyond; over
bronch-	windpipe	dys-	bad; abnormal; difficult	hyph-	weaving; web
cac-	bad	ec-	out of; away from	hypno-	sleep
calor-	heat	echin-	spiny; prickly	hypo-	below; under; less
capill-	hair	eco-	house	hyster-	womb; uterus
capit-	head	ecto-	outside of	-iac	person afflicted with disease
carcin-	cancer	-elle	small	-iasis	disease; abnormal condition
cardi-	heart	-emia	blood	-ic	(adjective former)
carn-	meat; flesh	en- endo-; ent-	in; into; within	ichthy-	fish
carp-	fruit	-en	made of	ign-	fire
carpal-	wrist	encephal-	brain	in- il- im- ir-	not
cata-	breakdown; downward	enter-	intestine; gut	in- il- im- ir-	to; toward; into
caud-	tail	entom-	insects	in-	very; thoroughly
-cell-	chamber; small room	-eous	nature of; like	-ine	of or pertaining to
cen-; -cene	now; recent	epi-	upon; above; over	infra-	below; beneath
inter- intra-	between within; inside	-oma; omni-	abnormal condition; tumor; all	sacchar- sapr-	sugar rotten
-ism	a state or condition	onc-	mass; tumor	sarc-	flesh
iso-	equal; same	oo-	egg	saur-	lizard
-ist	person who deals with...	ophthalm-	eye	schis- schiz-	split; divide
-itis	inflammation; disease	opt-	eye	sci-	know
-ium	refers to a part of the body	orb-	circle; round; ring	scler-	hard
-kary-	cell nucleus	-orium -ory	place for something	-scop-	look; device for seeing
kel-	tumor; swelling	ornith-	bird	-scribe -script	write
kerat-	horn	orth-	straight; correct; right	semi-	half; partly
kilo-	thousand	oscu-	mouth	sept-	partition; seven
kine-	move	-osis	abnormal condition	-septic	infection; putrefaction
lachry-	tear	oste-	bone	sess-	sit
lact-	milk	oto-	ear	sex-	six
lat-	side	-ous	full of	-sis	condition; state
leio-	smooth	ov-	egg	sol-	sun
-less	without	oxy-	sharp; acid; oxygen	solv-	loosen; free
leuc- leuk-	white; bright; light	pachy-	thick	som- somat-	body
lign-	wood	paleo-	old; ancient	somn-	sleep
lin-	line	palm-	broad; flat	son-	sound
lingu-	tongue	pan-	all	spec- spic-	look at
lip-	fat	par- para-	beside; near; equal	-sperm-	seed
lith-; -lite	stone; petrifying	path-; -pathy	disease; suffering	-spher-	ball; round
loc-	place	-ped-	foot	spir-; -spire	breathe
-log-	word; speech	-ped-	child	-spor-	seed
-logist	one who studies...	pent-	five	stat-; -stasis	standing; placed; staying
-logy	study of...	per-	through	stell-	stars
lumin-	light	peri-	around	sten-	narrow
-lys- -lyt-; -lyst	decompose; split; dissolve	permea-	pass; go	stern-	chest; breast

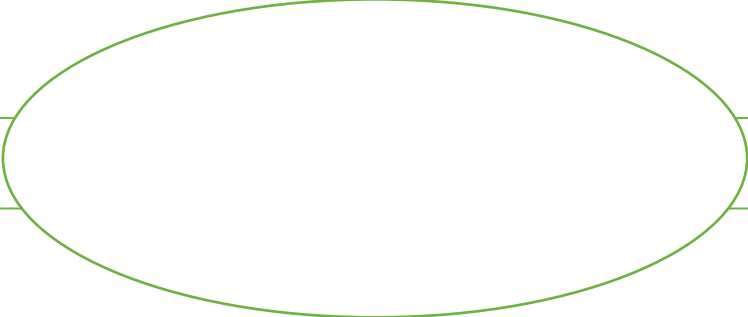
## LESSON 2

## Ready for High School: Literacy Ready . Science Unit 1

macr-	large	phag-	eat	stom-; -stome	mouth
malac-	soft	pheno-	show	strat-	layer
malle-	hammer	-phil-	loving; fond of	stereo-	solid; 3-dimensional
mamm-	breast	phon-; -phone	sound	strict-	drawn tight
marg-	border; edge	-phore; pher-	bear; carry	styl-	pillar
mast-	breast	photo-	light	sub-	under; below
med-	middle	phren-	mind; diaphragm	super-; sur-	over; above; on top
meg-	million; great	phyc-	seaweed; algae	sym-; syn-	together
mela- melan-	black; dark	phyl-	related group	tachy-	quick; swift
-mer	part	-phyll	leaf	tarso-	ankle
mes-	middle; half; intermediate	physi-	nature; natural qualities	tax-	arrange; put in order
met- meta-	between; along; after	phyt-; -phyte	plant	tele-	far off; distant
-meter -metry	measurement	pino-	drink	telo-	end
micro-	small; millionth	pinni-	feather	terr-	earth; land
milli-	thousandth	plan-	roaming; wandering	tetr-	four
mis-	wrong; incorrect	plasm-; -plast-	form; formed into	thall-	young shoot
mito-	thread	platy-	flat	-the- -thes-	put
mole-	mass	pleur-	lung; rib; side	-thel-	cover a surface
mono-	one; single	pneumo-	lungs; air	-therm-	heat
mort-	death	-pod	foot	-tom-	cut; slice
-mot-	move	poly-	many; several	toxico-	poison
morph-	shape; form	por-	opening	top-	place
multi-	many	port-	carry	trache-	windpipe
mut-	change	post-	after; behind	trans-	across
my-	muscle	pom-	fruit	tri-	three
myc-	fungus	pre-	before; ahead of time	trich-	hair
mycel-	threadlike	prim-	first	-trop-	turn; change
myria-	many	pro-	forward; favoring; before	-troph-	nourishment; one who feeds
moll-	soft	proto-	first; primary	turb-	whirl
nas-	nose	pseudo-	false; deceptive	-ul-; -ule	diminutive; small
necr-	corpse; dead	psych-	mind	ultra-	beyond
nemat-	thread	pter-	having wings or fins	uni-	one
neo-	new; recent	pulmo-	lung	ur-	urine
nephro-	kidney	puls-	drive; push	-ura	tail
-ner-	moist; liquid	pyr-	heat; fire	vas-	vessel
neur-	nerve	quadr-	four	vect-	carry
noct- nox-	night	quin-	five	ven- vent-	come
-node	knot	radi-	ray	ventr-	belly; underside
-nom- -nomy	ordered knowledge; law	re-	again; back	-verge	turn; slant
non-	not	rect-	right; correct	vig-	strong
not-	back	ren-	kidney	vit- viv-	life
nuc-	center	ret-	net; made like a net	volv-	roll; wander
ob-	against	rhag-; -rrhage	burst forth	-vor-	devour; eat
ocul-	eye	rhe-; -rrhea	flow	xanth-	yellow
oct-	eight	rhin-	nose	xero-	dry
odont-	tooth	rhiz-	root	xyl-	wood
-oid	form; appearance	rhodo-	rose	zo-; -zoa	animal
olf-	smell	roto-	wheel	zyg-	joined together
oligo-	few; little	rubr-	red	zym-	yeast

Not only will you be using word parts to help you learn your vocabulary terms, you will also create pictures to help you visualize the terms. Creating a picture will help reinforce the meaning of your science terms. You will use the template for each bolded term you encounter in your handouts. Notice that you will give the meaning of word parts and the definition of the term, using a dictionary. You will draw a picture and create a sentence for each term. You will complete the top part of the template before reading the articles and complete the bottom part of the template after reading the articles. The template is shown below, but you will be receiving handouts of the template to complete your work.

<b>Making of Word Parts</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Picture</b>	<b>Sentence</b>



## Text References:

### HOW MANY LICKS DOES IT TAKE TO GET TO THE CENTER?

<http://utahscience.oremjr.alpine.k12.ut.us/sciber00/7th/earth/sciber/erlayers.htm>

Have you ever wondered how many licks it takes to get to the core of a giant jaw breaker? 1, 2, 3... slurp. The earth is in some ways like a giant jaw breaker. It is composed of several layers: the crust, the mantle, and the core.

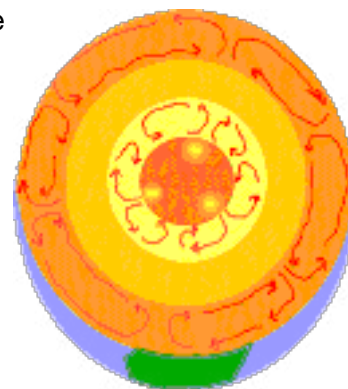
#### CRUST

What comes to mind when you think of the word crust? Perhaps it is the time old saying, "Eat your crust!" The earth's crust is a little different than the crust on a piece of bread. It is not soft and chewy, but it is hard and composed of different minerals. The thin, outermost layer of the earth is called the crust. It makes up only one percent of the earth's mass. The continental crust is thicker than the oceanic crust. It can range from 25 km thick at the edges to 70 km thick near the center. The oceanic crust on the other hand is only about 7 km thick and considerably more dense. The crust and the uppermost part of the mantle make up the ***lithosphere***, a solid region that is broken into plates. It is about 65 to 100 km thick.

#### MANTLE

The mantle is the layer below the crust. It makes up almost two thirds of the earth's mass and is about 2900 km thick. The mantle is divided into two regions, the upper and lower sections. Directly below the upper section is the ***asthenosphere***. Heat and pressure cause a small amount of melting to occur in the asthenosphere. While still solid, the asthenosphere is able to flow. The ability of a solid to flow is called ***plasticity***. See "What's the matter?" for an activity to demonstrate plasticity. Since the asthenosphere is more liquid than the rest of the mantle, the broken lithosphere plates are able to "float" on it.

When the material in the asthenosphere is heated, it becomes less dense and rises. While the cooler material is more dense it tends to sink. Circulating currents carry the warmer material up and the cooler material down. These circular currents in the asthenosphere are called **convection currents**. The circulating convection currents cause the plates to move.



#### CORE

Below the mantle is the core, the center of the earth. It makes up nearly one third the mass of the earth. The core is also divided into two regions, the inner core and the outer core. From seismic or earthquake waves, scientists believe the outer core is a liquid and the inner core is a solid. The outer core is made of iron and is very dense. Scientists hypothesize that the circulation of the outer core causes the magnetic field around the earth. It is believed to be circulating in the counter-clockwise direction giving us the north pole in its present location. It switches about every million years. A record of this "switching" is recorded in the rocks both on land and in the ocean crust. See "Go west young man! But which way is north?" The inner core is made of solid iron and nickel. Many scientists believe it is kept in the solid state because of the extreme pressure from the other layers.



## Earth's Atmosphere: Composition, Climate & Weather

by Tim Sharp, Reference Editor | September 19, 2012 06:52pm ET

Earth is the only planet in the solar system with an atmosphere that can sustain life. The blanket of gases not only contains the air that we breathe but also protects us from the blasts of heat and radiation emanating from the sun. It warms the planet by day and cools it at night.

Earth's atmosphere is about 300 miles (480 kilometers) thick, but most of it is within 10 miles (16 km) the surface. Air pressure decreases with altitude. At sea level, air pressure is about 14.7 pounds per square inch (1 kilogram per square centimeter). At 10,000 feet (3 km), the air pressure is 10 pounds per square inch (0.7 kg per square cm). There is also less oxygen to breathe.

### Composition of air

The gases in Earth's atmosphere include:

- Nitrogen – 78 percent
- Oxygen – 21 percent
- Argon – 0.93 percent
- Carbon dioxide – 0.038 percent

Water vapor and other gases exist in small amounts as well.

### Atmosphere layers

Earth's atmosphere is divided into five main layers, the exosphere, the thermosphere, the mesosphere, the stratosphere and the troposphere. The atmosphere thins out in each higher layer until the gases dissipate in space. There is no distinct boundary between the atmosphere and space, but an imaginary line about 68 miles (110 kilometers) from the surface, called the Karman line, is usually where scientists say atmosphere meets outer space.

The **troposphere** is the layer closest to Earth's surface. It is 4 to 12 miles (7 to 20 km) thick and contains half of Earth's atmosphere. Air is warmer near the ground and gets colder higher up. Nearly all of the water vapor and dust in the atmosphere are in this layer and that is why clouds are found here.

The **stratosphere** is the second layer. It starts above the troposphere and ends about 31 miles (50 km) above ground. Ozone is abundant here and it heats the atmosphere while also absorbing harmful radiation from the sun. The air here is very dry, and it is about a thousand times thinner here than it is at sea level. Because of that, this is where jet aircraft and weather balloons fly.

The **mesosphere** starts at 31 miles (50 km) and extends to 53 miles (85 km) high. The top of the mesosphere, called the mesopause, is the coldest part of Earth's atmosphere with temperatures averaging about minus 130 degrees F (minus 90 C). This layer is hard to study. Jets and balloons don't go high enough, and satellites and space shuttles orbit too high. Scientists do know that meteors burn up in this layer.

The **thermosphere** extends from about 56 miles (90 km) to between 310 and 620 miles (500 and 1,000 km). Temperatures can get up to 2,700 degrees F (1,500 C) at this altitude. The thermosphere is considered part of Earth's atmosphere, but air density is so low that most of this layer is what is normally thought of as outer space. In fact, this is where the space shuttles flew and where the International Space Station orbits Earth. This is also the layer where the auroras occur. Charged particles from space collide with atoms and molecules in the thermosphere, exciting them into higher

states of energy. The atoms shed this excess energy by emitting photons of light, which we see as the colorful Aurora Borealis and Aurora Australis.

The **exosphere**, the highest layer, is extremely thin and is where the atmosphere merges into outer space. It is composed of very widely dispersed particles of hydrogen and helium.

### **Climate and weather**

Earth is able to support a wide variety of living beings because of its diverse regional climates, which range from extreme cold at the poles to tropical heat at the Equator. Regional climate is often described as the average weather in a place over more than 30 years. A region's climate is often described, for example, as sunny, windy, dry, or humid. These can also describe the weather in a certain place, but while the weather can change in just a few hours, climate changes over a longer span of time.

Earth's global climate is an average of regional climates. The global climate has cooled and warmed throughout history. Today, we are seeing unusually rapid warming. The scientific consensus is that greenhouse gases, which are increasing because of human activities, are trapping heat in the atmosphere.

— *Tim Sharp, Reference Editor*





## Lesson 3

# Developing Explanations

### In this lesson, you will . . .

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1. Identify evidence and synthesize information to create a model.
2. Use evidence to justify decisions in making a model.
3. Identify evidence and synthesize information from multiple sources including both models and text.
4. Use evidence to justify an explanation.

Activity

**1** Plate Tectonics Puzzle

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Use this space to glue your Plate Tectonics puzzle answer.

Activity

## 2 Close Reading and Annotation

### Reading Science Text

(Adapted from Nist-Olejnik & Holschuh, 2013)

In science textbooks you will find many new terms and definitions. Often, the terms introduced in early chapters will be used later in the text to define other terms. So you need to be sure you understand the new terms as they appear to avoid trouble understanding future reading. Science textbooks also discuss proven principles and theories in terms of their relationship to each other. Therefore, it is important to be aware of and understand how the theories connect and how they explain the science concepts you are learning.

Concepts in science textbooks are usually presented sequentially, which means the concepts build on each other. Your best plan is to test yourself as you read to make sure you fully understand each concept. It is also helpful to create reading goals to monitor what you are learning. This means that rather than focusing on getting through a chapter, focus on learning concepts every time you read. Adopt a scientific approach and ask yourself questions such as:

- What data support this concept or theory?
- What other theories is this concept related to?
- How does this phenomenon work? What is the scientific process involved?
- Why does this phenomenon occur?
- What does it show us?

It is also important to pay attention to the diagrams in each chapter. They are there to help you picture the science process so that you can see what is happening. Understanding diagrams is crucial to doing well in most science courses.

#### Gearing Up for Reading

To gear up for reading, start by reading the chapter title and thinking about what you already know about that concept. Focus on primary and secondary headings to understand how the chapter is organized and how the ideas are related together. If your text has an outline of topics at the beginning of each chapter, use it to help you think about the key points. If not, skim through the chapter for key terms and think about how they are related to the appropriate heading or subheading. Pay special attention to diagrams and figures, and think about how they relate to the overall focus of the chapter. Finally, read the chapter objectives and guiding questions if your textbook has these features.

#### What and How to Annotate During Reading

Because of the large amount of new terminology involved in learning science, it is important for you to read your science textbooks before class. In this way, you will be familiar with the terms and concepts discussed in the text and you will be able to build your understanding of the concepts as you listen in class. It is also a good idea to connect the concepts discussed in class with the concepts described in your text by comparing your lecture notes to your text annotations each time you read. This will help you follow the flow of the concepts and will help you understand how the ideas are connected.

When you annotate your science text, you need to match your annotations to the course expectations. For example, if you are expected to think at higher levels, be sure your annotations include more than just the bold-faced terms. If you are expected to be able to explain science processes, be sure your annotations help you learn to do just that.

In general, it is a good idea to limit the amount of material you annotate. Annotate big concepts and save the details for your rehearsal strategies. A big mistake that students make when annotating science is that they tend to annotate too much. It is also essential to focus on putting the ideas into your own words. This will help you monitor your understanding of what you have read and will keep you from copying exactly from the text. In addition, look for experiments and results or conclusions drawn from scientific theories, and seek to make connections between the experiments and the concepts they generate.

Science texts often contain diagrams or charts to explain concepts. Because science exams usually contain questions about the concepts described in diagrams or charts, you must be able to read and understand each one. As you read your text, annotate the diagrams and take the time to reflect on what they are depicting. A good self-testing strategy to make sure you fully understand the concept is to cover up the words in the diagram and try to talk through the information. If you can explain how the concept works, you've shown that you understand it. If you find that you cannot explain it, reread your annotations or the diagram text to be sure you understand the key points.

In the annotation example, notice how the annotations focus on explaining the concepts rather than just memorizing the terms.

### **What is Annotation?**

- Writing brief summaries in the textbook's margin.
- Enumerating multiple ideas (i.e., causes, effects, reasons characteristics).
- Sketching pictures or charts to explain difficult processes/concepts.
- Writing possible test questions.
- Noting puzzling or confusing ideas that need clarification.
- Underlining key ideas.

### **Why Should I Annotate?**

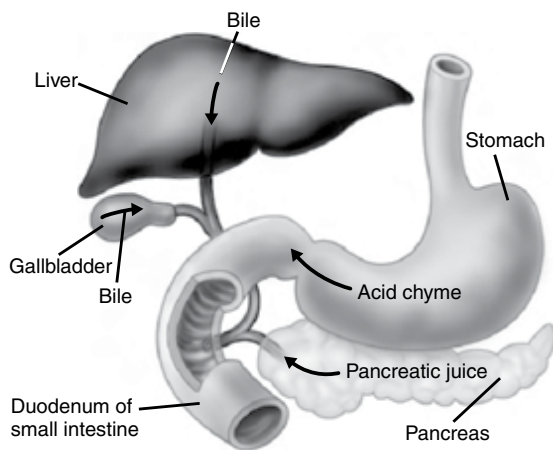
- It will improve your concentration so you will not become distracted and have to reread.
- It can provide an immediate self-check for your understanding of the textbook's key ideas.
- It will help you remember more.
- It can assist you in test preparation.
- It will negate the need of time spent in rereading the chapters.
- It will help you state ideas in your words.

### **What Should I Annotate?**

- Definitions
- Lists, features, causes, effects, reasons, characteristics
- Diagrams and Processes
- Examples of good ideas



## Example of Annotations in a Science Textbook



**Figure 22.12**  
**The duodenum.**

Acid chyme squirted from the stomach into the duodenum (the beginning of the small intestine) is mixed with pancreatic juice, bile from the liver and gallbladder, and intestinal juice produced by the duodenal lining itself. As peristalsis propels the mix along the small intestine, hydrolases break food molecules down to their monomers.

The duodenum receives digestive juices from the pancreas, liver, and gallbladder (**Figure 22.12**). The **pancreas** is a large gland that secretes pancreatic juice into the duodenum via a duct. Pancreatic juice neutralizes the stomach acids that enter the duodenum and contains hydrolases that participate in the chemical digestion of carbohydrates, fats, proteins, and nucleic acids.

**Bile** is a juice produced by the **liver**, stored in the **gallbladder**, and secreted through a duct into the duodenum. Bile contains no digestive enzymes but does have substances called bile salts that make fats more accessible to lipase. Fats, including those from the cheese of the

pizza we're following, are a special problem for the digestive system because they do not dissolve in water. The fats in chyme start out as relatively large globules. Only those molecules on the surface of the globules are in contact with the lipase dissolved in the surrounding solution. Agitation from the rhythmic contraction of muscles in the intestinal wall breaks the fat globules into small droplets, but without the help of bile salts, those droplets would quickly fuse again into larger globules that would be difficult to digest. Through a process called emulsification, bile salts essentially coat the tiny fat droplets and prevent them from fusing. Similarly, emulsification by a chemical additive helps keep oil permanently mixed with vinegar in some commercial salad dressings.

The intestinal lining itself also aids in enzymatic digestion by producing a variety of hydrolases. The cumulative activities of all these hydrolytic enzymes break the different classes of food molecules completely down into monomers, which are now ready for absorption into the body.

**Absorption of Nutrients** Wait a minute! The previous sentence said that nutrients "are now ready for absorption by the body." Aren't these nutrients already in the body? Not really. The alimentary canal is a tunnel running through the body, and its cavity is continuous with the great outdoors. The doughnut analogy in **Figure 22.13** should convince you that this is so. Until nutrients actually cross the tissue lining of the alimentary canal to enter the bloodstream, they are still outside the body. If it were not for nutrient absorption, we could eat and digest huge meals but still starve to death, in a sense.

Most digestion is complete by the time our pizza meal reaches the end of the duodenum. The next several meters of small intestine (called the jejunum and the ileum) are specialized for nutrient absorption. The structure of the intestinal lining, or epithelium, fits this function (**Figure 22.14**). The surface area of this epithelium is huge—roughly 300m<sup>2</sup>, equal to the floor space of a one bedroom apartment. The intestinal lining not only has large folds, like the stomach, but also fingerlike outgrowths called villi, which makes the epithelium something like the absorptive surface of a fluffy bath towel. Each cell of the epithelium adds even more surface by having microscopic projections called microvilli. Across this expansive surface of intestinal epithelium, nutrients are transported into the network of small blood vessels and lymphatic vessels in the core of each villus.

### Digestion Sm Intestine

- when food reaches sm int. it has been thru mech. and chem. digestion
- hydrolysis is initiated

### Duodendum

1st ft. of sm int.

- where food is broken into monomers
- gets digest. juice from pancreas (pancreatic juice via duct—neutralizes stomach acid & contains hydro-lases for chem digest), liver (bile), gallbladder (where bile is stored and via duct)

- Bile salts—make fats accessible to lipase thru emulsification—bile salts coat fat droplets to keep them separated (like oil and water in dressing) Int. lining produces hydrolases to get food ready for absorption

### Absorption

Nutrients don't really 'enter' body until entering bloodstream. Nut abs occurs in jejunum and ileum (next parts of sm int.)  
Epithelium—int. lining (huge—300m<sup>2</sup>, folded, and has villi). Very abosorptive. Each cell has microvilli—all help transport nutrients

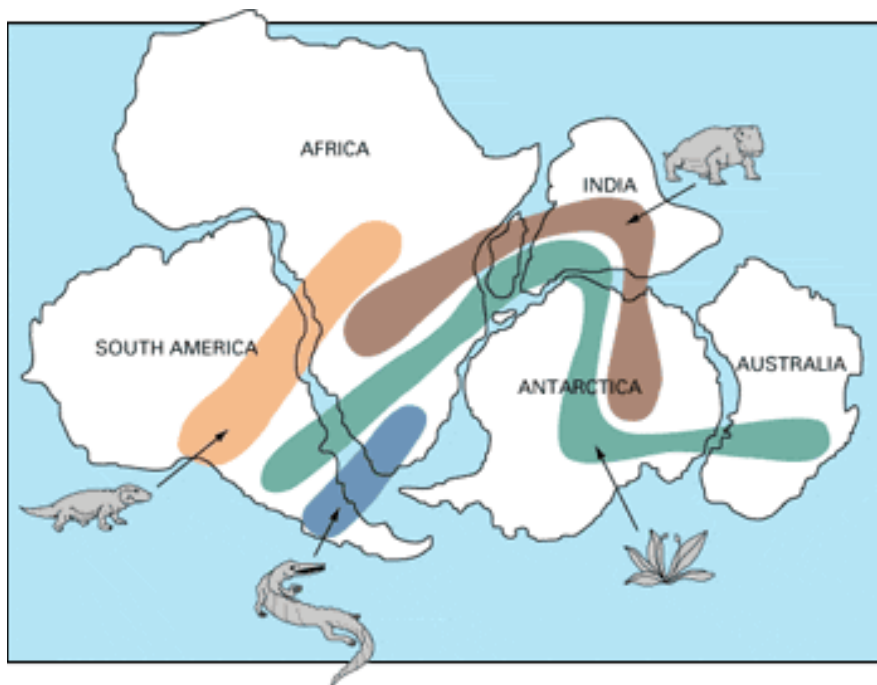
Alfred Wegener article: [http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Wegener/wegener\\_4.php](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Wegener/wegener_4.php)

### Alfred Wegener (1880-1930)

Wegener began by demolishing the theory that large land bridges had once connected the continents and had since sunk into the sea as part of a general cooling and contraction of the Earth. He pointed out that the continents are made of a different, less dense rock (granite) than the volcanic basalt that makes up the deep-sea floor in which Wegener proposed that the continents floated somewhat like icebergs in water. Wegener also noted that the continents move up and down to maintain equilibrium in a process called isostasy. As an example he cited the sinking of Northern Hemisphere lands under the weight of continental ice sheets in the last ice age, and their rise since the ice melted some 10,000 years ago.

Given the difference in density between continents and sea floor, plus the process of isostasy, Wegener reasoned that if continent-size land bridges had existed and somehow been forced to the ocean bottom, they would have “bobbed-up” again when the force was released. Therefore, since fossil and geological evidence clearly showed the continents were once connected, the only logical alternative was that the continents themselves had been joined and had since drifted apart.

“Wegener also noted that the continents move up and down to maintain equilibrium in a process called isostasy.”



Certain fossils appear in continuous bands across continents that are now separated by thousands of miles of ocean. Wegener believed this fact was one of the strongest pieces of evidence for his theory. In the above map, orange indicates the fossil remains of *Cynognathus*, a Triassic land reptile. Dark blue indicates fossil remains of the freshwater reptile *Mesosaurus*. Green indicates fossils of the fern *Glossopteris*, found in all of the southern continents. Brown indicates fossil evidence of the Triassic land reptile *Lystrosaurus*. (Map courtesy [This Dynamic Earth](#), United States Geological Survey)

Wegener also offered a more plausible explanation for mountain ranges. According to the cooling, contracting-Earth theory, they formed on the Earth's crust as wrinkles form on the skin of a drying apple. If this were so, however, they should be spread evenly over the Earth; instead mountain ranges occur in narrow bands, usually at the edge of a continent. Wegener said they formed when the edge of a drifting continent crumpled and folded — as when India hit Asia and formed the Himalayas.

He also noted that when you fit Africa and South America together, mountain ranges (and coal deposits) run uninterrupted across both continents, writing:

It is just as if we were to refit the torn pieces of a newspaper by matching their edges and then check whether the lines of print ran smoothly across. If they do, there is nothing left but to conclude that the pieces were in fact joined in this way.

By his third edition (1922), Wegener was citing geological evidence that some 300 million years ago all the continents had been joined in a supercontinent stretching from pole to pole. He called it Pangaea (all lands), and said it began to break up about 200 million years ago, when the continents started moving to their current positions.

Perhaps the best summary of Wegener's revolutionary theory was provided by countryman Hans Cloos: "It placed an easily comprehensible, tremendously exciting structure of ideas upon a solid foundation. It released the continents from the Earth's core and transformed them into icebergs of gneiss [granite] on a sea of basalt. It let them float and drift, break apart and converge. Where they broke away, cracks, rifts, trenches remain; where they collided, ranges of folded mountains appear."





Activity

**3** Gathering Information

How do plates move?

Factor	Source	Description	How does this help explain how plates move?
Density of Basalt and Granite	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Sea Floor Spreading	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Convection Currents	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Ridge-Push	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Slab-Pull	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Activity




# 4 Using Evidence to Justify an Explanation

Analyze the infographic below about scientific explanations, using the claim-evidence-reasoning strategy. How might this provide a clear and thorough scientific explanation?

## CER: Evidence-Based Response

CER = Claim + Evidence + Reasoning

Answer questions like an expert by providing your claim, evidence and reasoning.

 <b>Claim</b> Your answer drawn from your observations	 <b>Evidence</b> Information from a reliable source/text	 <b>Reasoning</b> Your explanation of how evidence supports claim
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### How to Use CER

<b>I: Claim</b> State a direct response to the question/prompt. <b>Helpful Hints:</b> Use key words and ideas provided in the question or prompt as you write your claim. Avoid using openings such as 'I think' or 'I believe'.	<b>II: Evidence</b> Provide reliable information that supports the claim. <b>Helpful Hints:</b> Here are suggested sentence starters: In the text... The text states... According to the passage... One example from the text... The author states... One piece of evidence is...	<b>III: Reasoning</b> Explain how the evidence supports the claim. <b>Helpful Hints:</b> This portion must offer new insight, analysis, acknowledgement of connections between ideas, etc.  Here is a suggested sentence starter: Based on this evidence, we must conclude (rephrase your claim) because (your analysis).
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### More Sentence Starters for Your Reasoning

The most logical conclusion we can draw from this evidence is that (rephrase your claim) because (your analysis).	These facts work together to build a case that (rephrase claim) because (your analysis).
This is significant because (explain why in a way that directly relates to the claim).	(Rephrase your evidence) matters because (give your reason). Thus, (rephrase your claim) must be true because (your analysis).
The fact that (rephrase your evidence) illustrates that (rephrase your claim) because (your analysis).	This (illustration/graph/statistic/etc.) is irrefutable evidence that (rephrase claim) because (your analysis).
Considered together, the fact that (rephrase one piece of evidence) and that (rephrase more evidence), clearly demonstrate that (rephrase your claim) because (your analysis).	All of this proves that (rephrase your claim) because (your analysis).





	<b>Claim</b> <i>A statement or conclusion that answers the original question/problem</i>	<b>Evidence</b> <i>Scientific data that supports the claim. The data needs to be appropriate and sufficient to support the claim.</i>	<b>Reasoning</b> <i>A justification that connects the evidence to the claim. It shows why the data counts as evidence by using appropriate and sufficient scientific solutions.</i>
0	Does not make a claim, or makes an inaccurate claim like, “Levers do not affect work.”	Does not provide evidence, or only provides evidence like, “The data shows me it is true” or “It would be a lot harder to move a piano without a lever.”	Does not provide reasoning, or only provides inappropriate reasoning like, “Levers are used in lots of ways in our lives.”
1	Makes an accurate but vague or incomplete claim like, “Levers make work easier” or “Levers do not make work easier.” (It can actually depend.)	Makes a general statement about how in the investigations levers sometimes make the work easier and sometimes did not make the work easier. Does not include specific data.	Repeats evidence and links it to the claim, but does not include scientific principles.
2	Makes an accurate and complete claim like, “Levers sometimes make work easier.”	Provides 1 of the following 2 pieces of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific data (e.g., numbers) from the investigation when the lever made the work easier.</li> <li>• Specific data (e.g., numbers) from the investigation when the lever made the work harder.</li> </ul>	Provides 1 of the following 2 pieces of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lever can make work feel easier depending on the load, the effort applied, and the position of the fulcrum.</li> <li>• Doing work is the ability to move an object. If it takes less force, the work feels easier.</li> </ul>
3	X	Provides 2 of the following 2 pieces of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific data (e.g., numbers) from the investigation when the lever made the work easier.</li> <li>• Specific data (e.g., numbers) from the investigation when the lever made the work harder.</li> </ul>	Provides 2 of the following 2 pieces of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lever can make work feel easier depending on the load, the effort applied, and the position of the fulcrum.</li> <li>• Doing work is the ability to move an object. If it takes less force, the work feels easier.</li> </ul>

## Lesson 4

# Transforming Information

### In this lesson, you will . . .

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1. Approach discipline-specific vocabulary.
2. Transform information from an animation into text and from a text into an animation.
3. Use previously learning note-taking strategies during a lecture on the rock cycle.

### Vocabulary Study:

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You will complete the vocabulary templates for the key terms that you will be exploring throughout this lesson.

Activity

# 1 Transforming Information

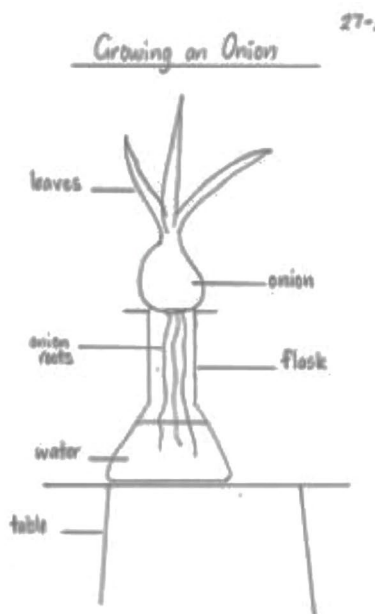
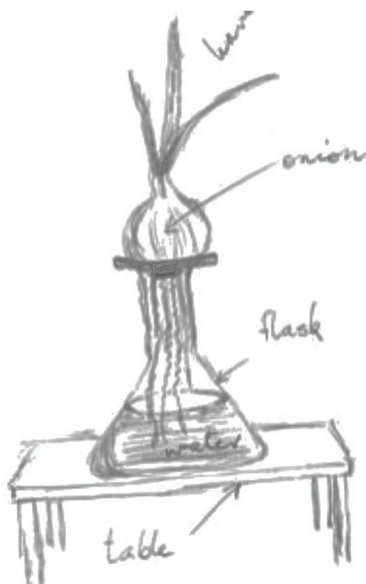
## Scientific Diagrams

<http://nswagtc.org.au/blogs/science-guru/1078-scientific-diagrams.html>

Science is very much about precision and facts — and the rules about diagrams reflect this. Correct diagrams show exactly what is needed: no more, no less. They are clear, accurate line drawings with as few lines as possible.

### How to draw a correct scientific diagram:

1. Use a very sharp lead pencil, preferably 2B.
2. Print a heading at the top of the page. Underline it.
3. Draw a simple, side-on view of the experiment/animal/plant (the focus of your diagram). Include only the essential details (e.g., if drawing a beaker, just draw sides and base).
4. Print (no running writing) all labels. Write them horizontally to the diagram and close to the relevant feature. Arrange them neatly around the diagram. Rule a straight line (no arrowheads) between the label and the feature. Labels should include purpose of feature (e.g., pouch: where immature young develop).
5. Rule all straight lines, including underlining headings and titles. Do not underline labels!



The diagram above left has many flaws:

- unnecessary shading makes the image unclear
- unnecessary detail is shown — e.g., three-dimensional drawing of table and flask
- label lines have arrowheads
- labels are arranged all over the diagram and are too far away from the relevant label line and they're not all horizontal!
- it has no title or date

## How Is Rock Continually Recycled in the Rock Cycle?

by Kevin Lee, Demand Media

Like a giant recycling machine, Earth constantly creates rocks, breaks them down and converts them into new types of rock. This rock cycle occurs because of the way weather and other natural forces react with minerals above and below the Earth's surface. The cycle never stops and it ensures that the planet never runs out of rocks.

### Rocks Begin in the Molten Stage

Magma and lava mark the beginning of the rock cycle. Magma is molten rock that exists below the surface. Most of it forms in the Earth's crust. Lava is magma that makes its way to the surface through volcanic activity or some other natural process. When molten rock cools, it hardens and becomes igneous rock. Basalt and granite are the two main types of igneous rock.

### Breaking Things Apart

After igneous rock forms, erosion and weather conditions eventually cause it to break down into smaller pieces called sediments. Wind, rivers, glaciers and other natural forces can carry this sediment to distant locations, where it hardens and forms sedimentary rock. Sedimentary rock contains pieces of other rocks. Geologists call these pieces clasts, from the Greek meaning "broken piece." Common examples of sedimentary rock include limestone, gravel, sandstone and chert.

### Metamorphosis Brings About Change

Metamorphic rock forms when other types of rock experience extreme stress, pressure and high heat for a long time. Sedimentary, igneous and other metamorphic rock can become metamorphic rock. These do not melt to form metamorphic rock. Instead, the molecules are rearranged by environmental stress. Metamorphic rocks become more metamorphosed the longer they experience metamorphic stresses.

### Back into the Molten State

As time passes, metamorphic rock subjected to stress may heat to the point where it turns into magma below the surface. This magma then begins the cycle again by creating igneous rock. Events in the cycle can happen in more than one order. For instance, an igneous rock buried deep beneath the surface may bypass the sedimentary rock phase and change into a metamorphic rock. Rocks can also remain in the same state for long periods.

## Rock Cycle Diagram

Before drawing your diagram below, refer to the rubric below.

Rock Cycle Diagram Rubric				
Category	Multiplier	3	2	1
Creation	X 2	The student correctly creates the rock cycle diagram to include the three different stages.	The student creates the rock cycle diagram with one error in the drawing of the different stages of the rock cycle.	The student creates the rock cycle diagram with more than one error in the drawing of the different stages of the rock cycle.
Labeling	X 1	The student labels all stages of the rock cycle correctly.	The student labels some stages of the rock cycle correctly.	The student labels none of the stages of the rock cycle correctly.
Descriptions	X 3	The student's written description of the rock cycle includes all three stages and they are correctly described.	The student's written description of the rock cycle includes at least two stages and/or they are correctly described.	The student's written description of the rock cycle does not include any of the three stages and does not describe the stages.





## Note-Taking Checklist

1. Did I use the same template from Lesson 3?  Yes  No
2. Are my notes neat and organized?  Yes  No
3. Do I have five key ideas?  Yes  No
4. Have I included supporting information for the key ideas?  Yes  No



## Lesson 5

# Inquiry in Weathering and Erosion

### In this lesson, you will . . .

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1. Conduct an inquiry investigation in which you explore the effects of weathering and erosion, drawing conclusions that will support your understanding of these processes.
2. Use close reading and annotation to help you deepen your understanding of weathering and erosion.
3. Design your own investigation to model a novel weathering or erosion process that was not included in the class stations.
4. Write a formal lab report in which you communicate your model design, observations, and analysis of the validity of the model created.

Activity

# 1 What is weathering and erosion, and how do these processes shape the surface of the Earth?

## WEATHERING AND EROSION

### Lab Stations

**Purpose:** To investigate the processes of weathering and erosion.

**Background Information:** Weathering involves two processes that often work together to decompose rocks. Both processes occur in place. No movement is involved in weathering. Chemical weathering involves a chemical change in some of the minerals in a rock. Mechanical weathering involves physically breaking rocks into fragments without changing the chemical make-up of the minerals within them. As soon as a rock particle (loosened by one of the two weathering processes) moves, we call it erosion or mass wasting. Mass wasting is simply movement down slope due to gravity. Rock falls, slumps, and debris flows are all examples of mass wasting. We call it erosion if the rock particle is moved by some flowing agent such as air, water or ice.

### Materials:

9 Stations – materials and task cards at each station

*Note: Stations 7, 10, and 12 are intentionally skipped.*

### Procedures:

1. There are nine stations in the classroom. Each station is numbered. Each station has all of the materials you will need to investigate one aspect of weathering and erosion. Each station also has a TASK CARD with instructions for completing the investigation.
2. Rotate through each station one at a time. You may go to the stations in any order.
3. Read the TASK CARD at each station. Read it again. Make sure you understand the instructions.
4. Follow the procedure on the task card. Record your observations and data on this station in your Academic Notebook

*NO MORE THAN 3 people at a time at any station.*

### Station Notes

#### Station #1 – Wind Erosion

Observations	
Wind	
Sandpaper on rocks	

What would a very strong wind do to the sand?

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What would happen if the sand hit clay?

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What would happen if the sand hit rock?

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How is rubbing sandpaper across a rock like windblown sand hitting a rock?

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**Station #2 – Splash Erosion**

As water falls, it is a source of potential energy. The greater the height from which the water falls, the greater the potential energy. Falling raindrops strike the earth at about 20 mph. The effect of one drop is little, but many, drops can tear apart the surface of the soil.

Describe what happened to the surface of the sand.

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What do you think will happen to the surfaces of mountains that have large amounts of rainfall?

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How do you think the material that makes up different types of rock will affect how easily each type is worn away?

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What difference did the height of the water make?

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**Station #3 – Weathering and Erosion**

Observations:

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Describe what you think has happened to the water that collects in the bottom of the tray.

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Describe what has happened to the surface of the “rock.”

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What do you think happens to rock that has been dissolved?

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**Station #4 – Mechanical Weathering**

Observations:

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List one natural situation that is similar to the process used in this investigation.

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**Station #5 – Chemical Weathering**

Observations:

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How might this process occur in nature?

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**Station #6 – Wave Action**

Observations:

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Beach Sketch BEFORE Waves

Height in cm:

Beach Sketch AFTER Waves

Height in cm:

**Station #8 – Soil Erosion**

Observations:

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Which particles moved first? Second? Last?

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How does the size of the particles affect the rate of erosion?

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Would the amount of water affect the rate of erosion? Explain your answer.

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Would the hardness of the rain affect the rate of erosion? Explain your answer.

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If you wanted to control erosion on a hill, what type of particles would be best? Explain.

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**Station #9 – More Soil Erosion**

Observations:

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Do the bottle caps affect the rate of erosion? Explain your answer.

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How could you prevent erosion on a dirt hill?

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**Station #11 – More Chemical Weathering**

Observations:

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How are the bags the same? How are they different?

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What caused the changes in the wet steel wool?

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Explain how this kind of weathering could happen to a rock.

---

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## Activity

## 2



For the complete encyclopedic entry with media resources, visit:  
<http://education.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/erosion/>

## Erosion

Erosion is the act in which earth is worn away, often by water, wind, or ice. A similar process, weathering, breaks down or dissolves rock, weakening it or turning it into tiny fragments. No rock is hard enough to resist the forces of weathering and erosion. Together, they shaped the sharp peaks of the Himalaya Mountains in Asia and sculpted the spectacular forest of rock towers of Bryce Canyon, in the U.S. state of Utah.

The process of erosion moves bits of rock or soil from one place to another. Most erosion is performed by water, wind, or ice (usually in the form of a glacier). These forces carry the rocks and soil from the places where they were weathered. If water is muddy, it is a sign that erosion is taking place. The brown color indicates that bits of rock and soil are suspended in the water and being transported from one place to another. This transported material is called sediment.

When wind or water slows down, or ice melts, sediment is deposited in a new location. As the sediment builds up, it creates fertile land. River deltas are made almost entirely of sediment. Delta sediment is eroded from the banks and bed of the river.

### Erosion by Water

Moving water is the major agent of erosion. Rain carries away bits of soil and slowly washes away rock fragments. Rushing streams and rivers wear away their banks, creating larger and larger valleys. In a span of about 5 million years, the Colorado River cut deeper and deeper into the land in what is now the U.S. state of Arizona. It eventually formed the Grand Canyon, which is more than 1,600 meters (1 mile) deep and as much as 29 kilometers (18 miles) wide in some places.

Erosion by water changes the shape of coastlines. Waves constantly crash against shores. They pound rocks into pebbles and reduce pebbles to sand. Water sometimes takes sand away from beaches. This moves the coastline farther inland.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was built in 1870, on the Outer Banks, a series of islands off the coast of the U.S. state of North Carolina. At the time, the lighthouse was nearly 1,000 meters (3,300 feet) from the ocean. Over time, however, the ocean eroded most of the beach near the lighthouse. By 1999, the surf endangered the structure. Many people thought it would collapse during a strong storm. The lighthouse was moved 880 meters (2,900 feet) inland.

The battering of ocean waves also erodes seaside cliffs. It sometimes bores holes that form caves. When water breaks through the back of the cave, it creates an arch. The continual pounding of the waves can cause the top of the arch to fall, leaving nothing but rock columns. These are called sea stacks. All of these features make rocky beaches beautiful, but also dangerous.

### Erosion by Wind

Wind is also an agent of erosion. It carries dust, sand, and volcanic ash from one place to another. Wind can sometimes blow sand into towering dunes. Some sand dunes in the Badain Jaran area of the Gobi Desert in China reach more than 400 meters (1,300 feet) high.

In dry areas, windblown sand blasts against rock with tremendous force, slowly wearing away the soft rock. It also polishes rocks and cliffs until they are smooth.

Wind is responsible for the dramatic arches that give Arches National Park, in the U.S. state of Utah, its name. Wind can also erode material until nothing remains at all. Over millions of years, wind and water eroded an entire mountain range in central Australia. Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, is the only remnant of those mountains.

### **Erosion by Ice**

Ice can erode the land. In frigid areas and on some mountaintops, glaciers move slowly downhill and across the land. As they move, they pick up everything in their path, from tiny grains of sand to huge boulders.

The rocks carried by a glacier rub against the ground below, eroding both the ground and the rocks. Glaciers grind up rocks and scrape away the soil. Moving glaciers gouge out basins and form steep-sided mountain valleys.

Several times in Earth's history, vast glaciers covered parts of the Northern Hemisphere. These glacial periods are known as ice ages. Glaciers carved much of the northern North American and European landscape. They scoured the ground to form the bottom of what are now the Finger Lakes in the U.S. state of New York. They also carved fjords, deep inlets along the coast of Scandinavia.

Today, in places such as Greenland and Antarctica, glaciers continue to erode the earth. These ice sheets, sometimes more than a mile thick, carry rocks and other debris downhill toward the sea. Eroded sediment is often visible on and around glaciers. This material is called moraine.

### **Erosion and People**

Erosion is a natural process, but human activity can make it happen more quickly. Trees and plants hold soil in place. When people cut down forests or plow up grasses for agriculture or development, the soil washes away or blows away more easily. Landslides become more common. Water also rushes over exposed soil rather than soaking into it, causing flooding.

Erosion control is the process of reducing erosion by wind and water. Farmers and engineers must regularly practice erosion control. Sometimes, engineers simply install structures to physically prevent soil from being transported. Gabions are huge wire frames that hold boulders in place, for instance. Gabions are often placed near cliffs. These cliffs, often near the coast, have homes, businesses, and highways near them. When erosion by water or wind threatens to tumble the boulders toward buildings and cars, gabions protect landowners and drivers by holding the rocks in place.

Erosion control can also be done by physically changing the landscape. Living shorelines, for example, are a form of erosion control for wetland areas. Living shorelines are constructed by placing native plants, stone, sand, and even living organisms such as oysters along wetland coasts. These plants help anchor the soil to the area, preventing erosion. By securing the land, living shorelines establish a natural habitat. They protect coastlines from powerful storm surges as well as erosion.

Global warming, the latest increase in temperature around the world, is speeding erosion. The change in climate has been linked to more frequent and more severe storms. Storm surges following hurricanes and typhoons threaten to erode miles of coastline and coastal habitat. These coastal areas have homes, businesses, and economically important industries, such as fisheries.

The rise in temperature is also quickly melting glaciers. This is causing the sea level to rise faster than organisms can adapt to it. The rising sea erodes beaches more quickly. In the Chesapeake Bay area in the eastern United States, it is estimated that a rise in sea level of 8 to 10 centimeters (3 to 4 inches) will cause enough erosion to threaten buildings, sewer systems, roads, and tunnels.



For the complete encyclopedic entry with media resources, visit:  
<http://education.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/weathering/>

## Weathering

Weathering is the breaking down or dissolving of rocks and minerals on Earth's surface. Water, ice, acids, salt, plants, animals, and changes in temperature are all agents of weathering.

Once the rock has been broken down, a process called erosion transports the bits of rock and minerals away. No rock on Earth's surface is hard enough to resist weathering. Together, the processes of weathering and erosion carved the Grand Canyon, in the U.S. state of Arizona. This massive canyon is 446 kilometers (277 miles) long, as much as 29 kilometers (18 miles) wide, and 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) deep.

Weathering and erosion constantly change the Earth. Weathering wears away exposed surfaces over time. It smooths sharp, rough areas on rocks. Weathering also helps create soil as tiny bits of weathered rock mix with plant and animal remains.

Weathering can be a mechanical or a chemical process. Often, these two types of weathering work together.

### Mechanical Weathering

Mechanical weathering, also called physical weathering, causes rocks to crumble. Water seeps into cracks and crevices in rock. If the temperature drops low enough, the water will freeze. When water freezes, it expands. The ice then works as a wedge. It slowly widens the cracks and splits the rock. When ice melts, water performs the act of erosion by carrying away the tiny rock fragments lost in the split.

Mechanical weathering also occurs as the rock heats up and cools down. The changes in temperature cause the rock to expand and contract. As this happens over and over again, the rock weakens. Over time, it crumbles.

Another type of mechanical weathering occurs when clay or other materials near hard rock absorb water. The clay swells with the water, breaking apart the surrounding rock.

Salt also works to weather rock. Saltwater sometimes gets into the cracks and pores of rock. If the saltwater evaporates, salt crystals are left behind. As the crystals grow, they put pressure on the rock, slowly breaking it apart.

Plants and animals are agents of mechanical weathering. The seed of a tree may sprout in soil that has collected in a cracked rock. As the roots grow, they widen the cracks, eventually breaking the rock into pieces. Over time, trees can break apart even large rocks. Even small plants, such as mosses, can enlarge tiny cracks as they grow.

Animals that tunnel underground, such as moles and prairie dogs, also work to break apart rock and soil. Other animals dig and trample rock aboveground, causing rock to slowly crumble.

### Chemical Weathering

Chemical weathering changes the materials that make up rocks and soil. Sometimes, carbon dioxide from the air or soil combines with water. This produces a weak acid, called carbonic acid, that can dissolve rock.

Carbonic acid is especially effective at dissolving limestone. When the carbonic acid seeps through limestone underground, it can open up huge cracks or hollow out vast networks of caves. Carlsbad Caverns National Park, in the U.S. state of New Mexico, includes more than 110 limestone caves. The largest is called the Big Room. At about 1,200 meters (4,000 feet) long and 190 meters (625 feet) wide, it is the size of six football fields.

Sometimes, chemical weathering dissolves large regions of limestone or other rock on the surface of the Earth to form a landscape called karst. In these dramatic areas, the surface rock is pockmarked with holes, sinkholes, and caves. One of the worlds most spectacular examples of karst is Shilin, or the Stone Forest, near Kunming, China. Hundreds of slender, sharp towers of limestone rise from the landscape.

Another type of chemical weathering works on rocks that contain iron. These rocks rust in a process called oxidation. As the rust expands, it weakens the rock and helps break it apart.

### **Weathering and People**

Weathering is a natural process, but human activities can speed it up. For example, certain kinds of air pollution increase the rate of weathering. Burning coal, natural gas, and oil releases chemicals such as nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere. When these chemicals combine with sunlight and moisture, they change into acids. They then fall back to Earth as acid rain.

Acid rain rapidly weathers limestone, marble, and other kinds of stone. The effects of acid rain can be seen on gravestones. Names and other inscriptions can be impossible to read.

Acid rain has also damaged many historic buildings and monuments. At 71 meters (233 feet) tall, the Leshan Giant Buddha at Mount Emei in China is the worlds largest statue of the Buddha. It was carved 1,300 years ago and sat unharmed for centuries. But in recent years, acid rain has turned its nose black and made some of its hair crumble and fall.

## Annotation Checklist

- Your annotations are perfect! Keep up the good work.
- You have missed many key ideas. Go back and annotate them.
- You need to put your annotations in your own words — do not copy from the book!
- Be briefer in your annotations. You do not need to write in full sentences.
- You have ignored the graphic aids. Annotate them.
- You need to note the specific examples — they could reappear on the exam.
- You need to enumerate the specific facts, characteristics, causes, events, etc., in the margin or in the text. Get the details, too!
- Your annotations need to focus on the key ideas more, and less on details.
- You are underlining too much — work more on writing your summaries in the margin.
- You are annotating too much! It will take you forever to do a chapter.
- You are annotating too little! You do not have enough information annotated to use as a study aid.
- You need to develop some symbols of your own and use them.
- You need to develop a method for organizing your annotations.
- Please annotate these sections or pages again.

p. \_\_\_\_\_ p. \_\_\_\_\_ p. \_\_\_\_\_ p. \_\_\_\_\_

Activity

3

## Weathering and Erosion at Work: Modeling the Construction of Landforms

### Introduction:

You have learned about how weathering and erosion shaped the surface of the Earth. You have completed several short lab investigations of various ways that weathering and erosion can act, and have seen several images of how these processes have shaped the Earth. Your task is to investigate a particular example of how weathering or erosion has shaped the Earth, and then create a lab investigation to model this process at work.

You will begin with an image of a particular land form that has been shaped through weathering and erosion. You must research the process, and then create a working model that will demonstrate that process at work. You will create a detailed procedure for creating your model for other scientists. Scientists should be able to use your model to investigate the process in the lab setting, and even collect data to help them make predictions about the conditions and time necessary to create that particular landform.

### Examples of Landforms:

(retrieved from: <http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-landforms.html>)

Landforms are natural physical features of the Earth's surface. As an element of topography, a landform is defined by its shape, location, and how it was formed.

#### *Aeolian Landforms*

Aeolian landforms are formed by either the erosive or the constructive action of the wind. As the wind erodes the land it has the effect of sandblasting the surface, leaving rock surfaces such as those found in the desert.

Examples are:

- Barchan – A convex-shaped sand dune with a gentle slope up the side of the wind direction and a 30–35 degree slip face that faces away from the wind.
- Blowout – A small hollow.
- Desert pavement – A sheet-like surface of rock.
- Desert varnish – A dark stain on the surfaces of desert rocks.
- Dune – A hill or mountain of sand.
- Dreikanter – A three-faced weathered rock.
- Erg – A sand covered desert.
- Loess – An accumulation of sediment or silt that is joined together by calcium carbonate.
- Dry lake – A waterless lakebed, typically covered in fine-grained rocks that contain salt.
- Sandhill – A sandy or low-vegetation hill area that receives minimal rainfall and has trouble retaining the water.
- Ventifact – Rocks that have been cut and polished by the wind.
- Yardang – Very large or very long, streamlined, sculpted forms caused by wind erosion.

*Landforms Produced by Erosion and Weathering*

- Badlands – A dry terrain with steep slopes and little or no vegetation.
- Butte – An isolated hill that typically has a flat top and steep sides.
- Canyon – A deep ravine between two cliffs or encasements, like the Grand Canyon.
- Cave – An underground space created by the weathering of rocks that is enclosed and large enough to enter.
- Cliff – An area with a steep drop-off, usually formed by erosion and near rock exposures.
- Cuesta – A hill or a ridge with a gentle slope.
- Gulch – A deep valley that has generally been formed by land erosion.
- Gully – A ditch or valley created by erosion.
- Hogback – A narrow ridge of hills with steep slopes and a narrow crest. The slopes are usually close to equal on both sides.
- Hoodoo – A tall thin rock formation protruding from the bottom of a badland.
- Lavaka – A hole in the side of a hill caused by erosion.
- Mesa – A tableland, or an elevated area with a flat top and steep cliff-like sides.
- Mountain pass – A path through a mountain range over a low point in a ridge.
- Plain – A large area that is flat or gently rolling, usually low in elevation.
- Plateau – An area that is high in elevation and basically flat.
- Ravine – Formed by running water, a ravine is smaller than a canyon and is steep and deep.
- Ridge – A chain of hills or mountains.
- Rock shelter – An cave-like opening at the base of a cliff.
- Scree – A collection of broken rocks at the base of a mountain.
- Strath – A wide shallow river valley.
- Summit – The highest point on a hill or mountain.
- Valley – A low area between hills or mountains.

## Creating the Model:

After choosing the landform you would like to research, you will need to research the specific processes of weathering and erosion that creates your landform. You will apply your understanding of those processes to create a model, using everyday materials, that can simulate how your landform was created. The model should effectively simulate the process by which this landform is created, using the materials provided. You must make observations about your model and revise it as needed so that it simulates the process as effectively as possible.

### Materials Available to Create Your Model:

- Potting soil
- Sand
- Rocks
- Gravel
- Clay
- Chalk
- Water
- Vinegar (a weak acid)
- Straws
- Paper cups
- Dish pans
- Freezer
- Hotplate
- Hammer
- Chisel

Chosen Landform to Research \_\_\_\_\_





## Model Design:

### Questions to guide your design process:

What materials would be best to demonstrate the processes of weathering and erosion at work in this particular example?

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How will this model illustrate how this landform is created?

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What observations will I be able to make from this model?

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Will it clearly simulate the process by which this landform is made?

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After constructing the model, what did I observe?

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Are there any changes or revisions that need to be done before it is ready to share?

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Activity

4

## Modeling Weathering and Erosion: Lab Report

### Task:

Write a formal lab report to communicate your findings from your weathering and erosion investigation. You will communicate the purpose of the investigation and any pertinent background information, as well as explain the model you created to simulate the Earth process you researched. You must include a procedure to create the model and analyze how well your model simulated the specific example of weathering or erosion that you researched. Finally, you must draw conclusions regarding the efficacy of your model and its usefulness in simulating this particular Earth process. Consider revisions to the model and possible next steps to refine your model. Use the following Lab Report Format to guide your writing.

### Lab Report Format

Include the following sections in your report. Label all sections!

#### *Introduction:*

In this section state the purpose of the investigation. Explain any background information that you researched that is important in understanding this particular example of weathering or erosion.

#### *Model Rationale:*

Clearly explain your reasoning for developing your particular model/ simulation of your researched example of weathering or erosion.

#### *Materials/Procedure:*

Give a detailed description of your model. Include step-by-step (numbered) instructions on how you built the model. Include the types of measurements and observations you made in creating your model.

#### *Analysis:*

Include a written description of the efficacy of your model/simulation. Include both qualitative and quantitative observations as applicable. Determine if the model you created is an accurate representation of the process of weathering/erosion that you researched. Explain how your observations support or reject that claim. Infer about WHY you think the results turned out the way they did.

#### *Conclusion:*

Summarize your inquiry investigation. Was the model you created an accurate simulation of the process? Discuss any sources of error and revisions you would make to your model. What would you do differently next time? Or what would your next steps be? What are any future implications of your findings?

### Science Writing Do's and Don'ts:

#### Do

- Follow the format exactly.
- Label all sections.
- Write formally (not like a letter to a friend).
- Use full sentences (no fragments or run-ons).
- Be detailed BUT concise.
- Make sure to support your “claims” with DATA collected.
- Proof read your lab report.

#### Don't

- Deviate from the format.
- Use pronouns in the writing – I, we, you.
- Discuss other groups findings – only about your experiment.
- Be “fluffy” in the writing, just stick to the point.
- Don't assume the reader was there for the lab — be detailed!

## Lab Report Peer-Assessment

### Introduction

1. Is there a *purpose* statement for why the inquiry is being performed? .....  Yes  No
2. Does the report include the experimental question being investigated? .....  Yes  No
3. Does it have multiple pieces of *background information* that help you to understand the process that will be modeled? .....  Yes  No

### Model Rationale

1. Is there reasoning that explains the connection between the erosion/weathering process and the model that can simulate that process? .....  Yes  No

### Materials

1. Is there a list of the materials they will need? .....  Yes  No All there?  Yes  No
2. Are safety precautions listed if necessary? .....  Yes  No

### Procedures

1. By reading their procedures, could you replicate the model exactly as they did it? ...  Yes  No
2. Are the procedures numbered, easy to follow, and neat? .....  Yes  No
3. Are measurements and observations to be made clearly identified? .....  Yes  No

### Analysis

1. Are the observations used to support or reject the efficacy of the model? .....  Yes  No
2. Is there *reasoning/explanation* as to **why** the model worked the way that it did? .....  Yes  No

### Conclusion

1. Is there a summary of what was done in the investigation and how the observations indicate the efficacy of the model created? .....  Yes  No
2. Is there a discussion about the validity of the model? Sources of error? .....  Yes  No
3. Is there a discussion of what should be done next in this investigation? How the model could be revised? .....  Yes  No

### Scientific Writing Conventions

1. Is science vocabulary used? (Consider key terms important in understanding the Earth processes of weathering and erosion!) .....  Yes  No
2. Does the writing sound like a letter to a friend or a formal piece of analytical writing? ..  Yes  No
3. Is the report neat and easy to read? .....  Yes  No
4. Does it follow basic grammar rules? (Ex. capitals start a sentence, punctuation used, commas where needed) .....  Yes  No
5. Is it written in the 3rd person, with all personal pronouns removed (I, we, our)? .....  Yes  No
6. Are the lab report sections labeled? .....  Yes  No
7. Is it detailed, leaving no room for interpretation? .....  Yes  No
8. Is evidence used to support all claims? .....  Yes  No

## Lesson 6

# Analyzing Data

### In this lesson, you will . . .

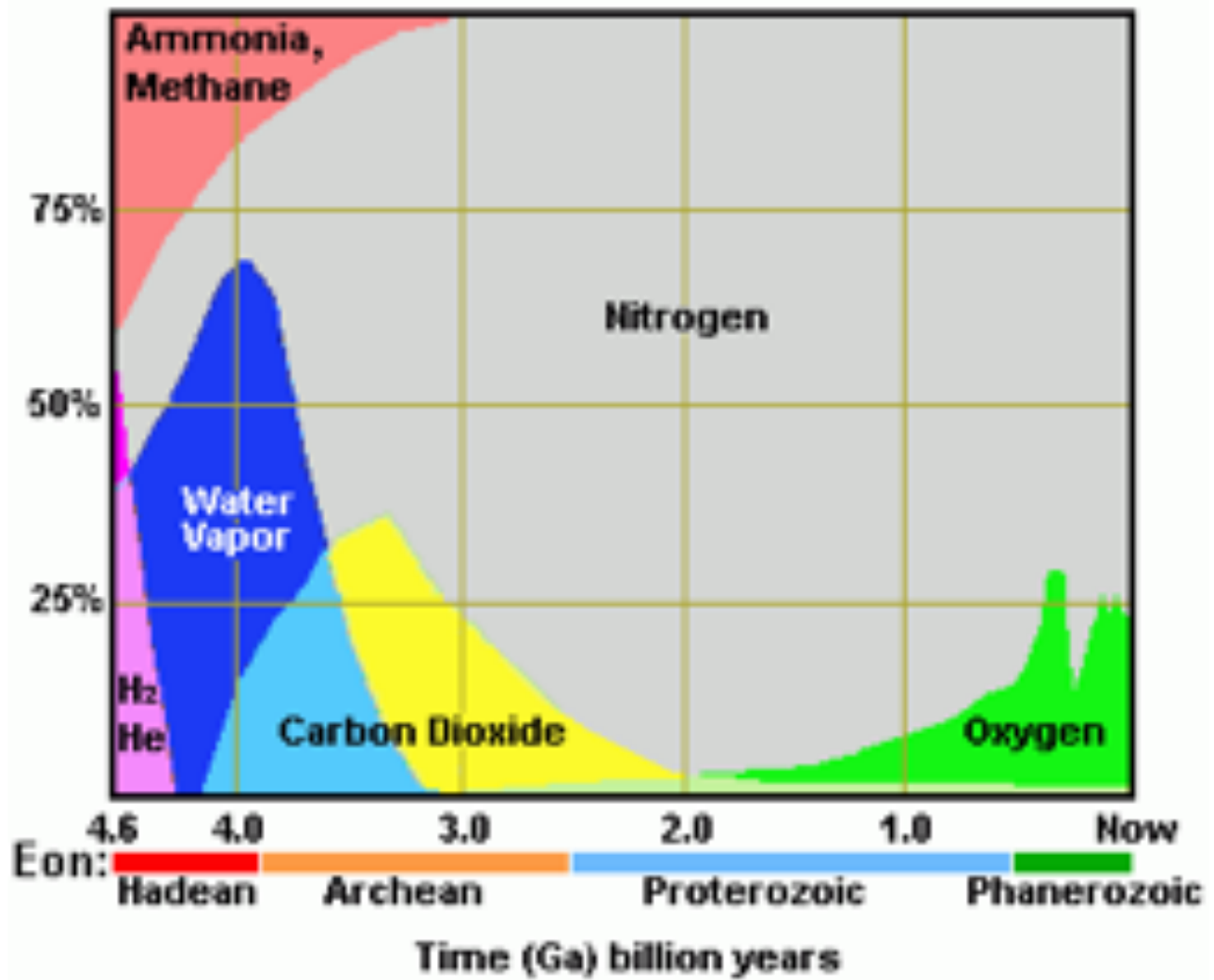
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1. Interpret graphs of atmospheric changes.
2. Use data to determine cause and effect.
3. Collect data over time to make predictions.

Activity

# 1 History of the Atmosphere

**% of Atmosphere    Composition of Earth's atmosphere**









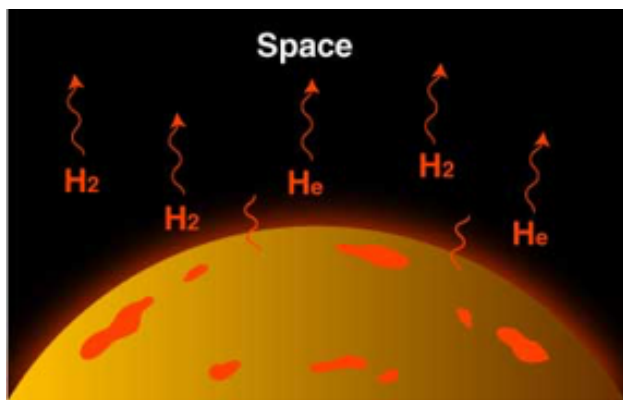
## Breathe!

No one knows of any other planet where you can do this simple thing.

Other planets and moons in our solar system have atmospheres, but none of them could support life as we know it. They are either too dense (as on Venus) or not dense enough (as on Mars), and none of them have much oxygen, the precious gas that we Earth animals need every minute.

So how did our atmosphere get to be so special?

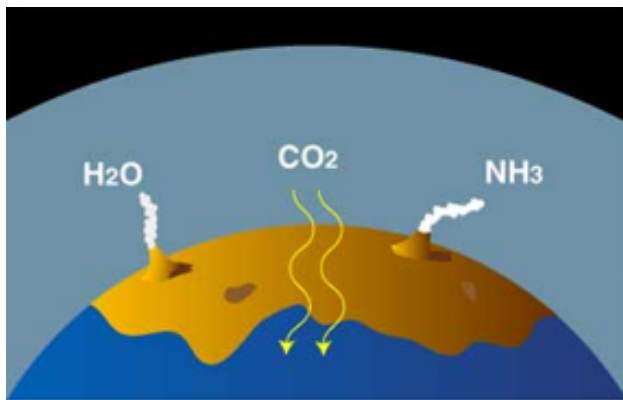
Some scientists describe three stages in the evolution of Earth's atmosphere as it is today.



**Just formed Earth:** Like Earth, the hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) and helium (He) were very warm. These molecules of gas moved so fast they escaped Earth's gravity and eventually all drifted off into space.

### Atmosphere #1

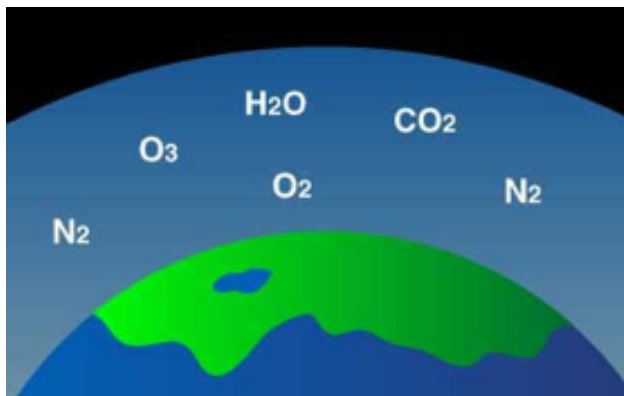
1. Earth's original atmosphere was probably just hydrogen and helium, because these were the main gases in the dusty, gassy disk around the Sun from which the planets formed. The Earth and its atmosphere were very hot. Molecules of hydrogen and helium move really fast, especially when warm. Actually, they moved so fast they eventually all escaped Earth's gravity and drifted off into space.



**Young Earth:** Volcanoes released gases H<sub>2</sub>O (water) as steam, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>). Carbon dioxide dissolved in seawater. Simple bacteria thrived on sunlight and CO<sub>2</sub>. By-product is oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>).

### Atmosphere #1

2. Earth's "second atmosphere" came from Earth itself. There were lots of volcanoes, many more than today, because Earth's crust was still forming. The volcanoes released
  - a. steam (H<sub>2</sub>O, with two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom),
  - b. carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>, with one carbon atoms and two oxygen atoms),
  - c. Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>, with one nitrogen atom and three hydrogen atoms).



**Current Earth:** Plants and animals thrive in balance. Plants take in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and give off oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>). Animals take in oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) and give off CO<sub>2</sub>. Burning stuff also gives off CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Atmosphere #3

3. Much of the CO<sub>2</sub> dissolved into the oceans. Eventually, a simple form of bacteria developed that could live on energy from the Sun and carbon dioxide in the water, producing oxygen as a waste product. Thus, oxygen began to build up in the atmosphere, while the carbon dioxide levels continued to drop. Meanwhile, the ammonia molecules in the atmosphere were broken apart by sunlight, leaving nitrogen and hydrogen. The hydrogen, being the lightest element, rose to the top of the atmosphere and much of it eventually drifted off into space.

Now we have Earth's "third atmosphere," the one we all know and love — an atmosphere containing enough oxygen for animals, including ourselves, to evolve.

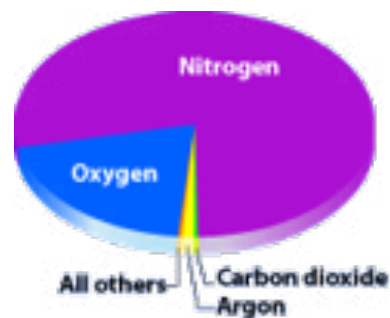
So plants and some bacteria use carbon dioxide and give off oxygen, and animals use oxygen and give off carbon-dioxide — how convenient! The atmosphere upon which life depends was created by life itself.

The atmosphere life depends on was created by life itself? Woah!

### What's in Earth's atmosphere now?

Note that this pie does not account for any water in the air. As you can see, air is mostly nitrogen (78%), with oxygen a distant runner up (21%). Argon and some other gases make up another small amount (about 1%). And carbon dioxide is only a very tiny slice (.0385% or only about 385 parts per million parts of air). But these proportions were quite likely different in Earth's much younger days.

<http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/atmosphere-formation/>



## History of the Atmosphere

Earth is believed to have formed about 5 billion years ago. In the first 500 million years a dense atmosphere emerged from the vapor and gases that were expelled during degassing of the planet's interior. These gases may have consisted of hydrogen ( $H_2$ ), water vapor, methane ( $CH_4$ ), and carbon oxides. Prior to 3.5 billion years ago the atmosphere probably consisted of carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ), carbon monoxide ( $CO$ ), water ( $H_2O$ ), nitrogen ( $N_2$ ), and hydrogen.



The hydrosphere was formed 4 billion years ago from the condensation of water vapor, resulting in oceans of water in which sedimentation occurred.

The most important feature of the ancient environment was the absence of free oxygen. Evidence of such an anaerobic reducing atmosphere is hidden in early rock formations that contain many elements, such as iron and uranium, in their reduced states. Elements in this state are not found in the rocks of mid-Precambrian and younger ages, less than 3 billion years old.



One billion years ago, early aquatic organisms called blue-green algae began using energy from the Sun to split molecules of  $H_2O$  and  $CO_2$  and recombine them into organic compounds and molecular oxygen ( $O_2$ ). This solar energy conversion process is known as photosynthesis. Some of the photosynthetically created oxygen combined with organic carbon to recreate  $CO_2$  molecules. The remaining oxygen accumulated in the atmosphere, touching off a massive ecological disaster with respect to early existing anaerobic organisms. As oxygen in the atmosphere increased,  $CO_2$  decreased.

High in the atmosphere, some oxygen ( $O_2$ ) molecules absorbed energy from the Sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays and split to form single oxygen atoms. These atoms combining with remaining oxygen ( $O_2$ ) to form ozone ( $O_3$ ) molecules, which are very effective at absorbing UV rays. The thin layer of ozone that surrounds Earth acts as a shield, protecting the planet from irradiation by UV light.

The amount of ozone required to shield Earth from biologically lethal UV radiation, wavelengths from 200 to 300 nanometers (nm), is believed to have been in existence 600 million years ago. At this time, the oxygen level was approximately 10% of its present atmospheric concentration. Prior to this period, life was restricted to the ocean. The presence of ozone enabled organisms to develop and live on the land. Ozone played a significant role in the evolution of life on Earth, and allows life as we presently know it to exist.



<http://teachertech.rice.edu/Participants/louviere/history.html>

Activity

## 2 Human Impact on the Atmosphere

**How does the emission rate of CO<sub>2</sub> affect global temperature?**

*Record your data from the computer simulation in the table below.*

CO <sub>2</sub> Emission Rate (gigatons/year)	Year	CO <sub>2</sub> Concentration in the Atmosphere (ppm)	Average Global Temperature (°C)

Activity

### 3 Organizing, Communicating and Analyzing Data

Your class will be discussing the questions below. Reflect on them by writing some brief notes during the discussion. This will help you to organize your thoughts for the writing assignment that follows.

**Questions for discussion and reflection:**

1. What trends or patterns do you see in the data?

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2. Does the rate of CO emission affect these trends? If so, how?

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3. Brainstorm sources of CO<sub>2</sub>.

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4. How do humans impact the composition of the atmosphere?

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5. What other global impact is caused by CO<sub>2</sub> emission?

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Use the data collected during the climate model simulation in Activity 2, your notes, and graphic organizers to create a concise report illustrating your findings. This should include a summary of trends indicated by the data and a brief analysis of this data and its implications. You should also draw conclusions about the impact of humans on Earth’s atmosphere. Include a graphic representation of the data you collected, to illustrate and justify the conclusions drawn from the data.

Scoring Criteria
Report summarizes the data collected.
Report provides analysis of the data.
Report concludes with the impact on Earth’s atmosphere.
Data is represented graphically.
Report is written in readable prose.

## Lesson 7

# Taking Tests in Science

### In this lesson, you will . . .

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1. Utilize strategies to generate your own test reviews.
2. Learn to organize concepts as a way to comprehend science processes.
3. Take a multiple-choice and short-answer test.
4. Evaluate your own test performance.

Activity

## 1 Generating a Concept Map

You will generate your own test review. Rather than using a teacher-generated review, you will work together to create a review that covers all of the material up to this point. You will learn a strategy to help you create the review: concept maps.

Concept maps help you organize the information learned. In the center of the map is the big concept or idea. Surrounding the big concept or idea are issues related to it. Off of each of the related issues is information to support those issues. A completed concept map can be used to prepare for exams.

*(Adapted from Nist & Holschuh, 2012 College Success Strategies, 4th edition)*

### **How Do You Use Maps to Study?**

When you study your map, you can begin by rehearsing one concept at a time. Then cover up everything except the main concept, and begin to talk the information through. Say the related material and then check your accuracy. Focus on how the concepts are related to each other because that is the major strength of mapping.



<b>Concept Mapping</b>			
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Approaching Expectation (1-4 marks)</b>	<b>Meeting Expectation (1-4 marks)</b>	<b>Exceeding Expectation (1-4 marks)</b>
<b>Concepts (Knowledge)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of insufficient concepts selected related to topic</li> <li>• Arrangement of concepts demonstrates little understanding of relationship between them</li> <li>• Relationships between concepts are weak</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptable number of concepts selected, with some relationships to topic</li> <li>• Arrangement of concepts demonstrates some understanding of relationship between them</li> <li>• Relationships make some logical sense</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most concepts and all significant concepts selected, and they clearly relate to the topic</li> <li>• Arrangement of concepts demonstrates complete and insightful understanding of relationship between them</li> <li>• Relationships make logical sense, with few errors</li> </ul>
<b>Hierarchical Structure (Communications)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only a few concepts connected in a hierarchical structure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some concepts connected in a hierarchical structure moving from major ideas to minor ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most or all concepts connected in a hierarchical structure moving from more complex to less complex, and on to specific concepts</li> </ul>
<b>Linkages (Thinking)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few relationships indicated by connecting lines</li> <li>• Only a few lines labeled with linking words</li> <li>• Many errors in the linking words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some relationships indicated by connecting lines</li> <li>• Some lines labeled with linking words</li> <li>• Some errors in the linking words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most or all relationships indicated by connecting lines</li> <li>• All lines labeled with linking words</li> <li>• Most or all linking words are accurate and varied</li> </ul>
<b>Cross Links (Application)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cross links used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few cross links are used to illustrate straight forward connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross links show complex relationships between two or more distinct segments of the concept map</li> </ul>

Activity

## 2 Test Review

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**Use the concept map you created in Activity 1 to review, working outward from the main concept.**

After reviewing on your own, you will work with a partner and talk through the map you created. Then your partner will talk through their map.

A “talk-through” is a method of preparing and reviewing for an exam that involves practicing and rehearsing aloud the key ideas of a text or science process. A talk-through is very similar to a lecture that you would give someone. In fact, when giving a talk-through, you should imagine being a teacher giving a lecture to students who know very little about the topic you are teaching. You will complete your talk-through the way you completed your map. Begin with the main concept, then the supporting concepts and the details of those supporting concepts. Your partner will have your map so they can tell if you have covered the information needed. Once you have completed this task, then you and your partner will swap roles.

Activity

# 4 Evaluating the Science Test

## Test Evaluation

The purpose of this evaluation is to help you learn from your experience preparing for and taking the test. Think about how you felt about your level of preparation before the test, where you focused your effort, and how you felt taking the test.

### 1. Test Preparation Survey:

- Were your study materials detailed? .....  Yes  No
- Did you focus during the in-class study session? ....  Yes  No
- Did you study outside of class? .....  Yes  No
- When taking the test, did you feel confident? .....  Yes  No

2. What went right? Analyze the test to determine what areas you were successful in, and consider what helped your thinking about those concepts.

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3. What went wrong? Analyze the test to discuss areas you might want to work on. In this analysis:

*Think about the errors you made and diagnose the nature of your difficulties as they relate to the concepts learned, problem solving expected, or your beliefs about science and/or science learning. Note: Don't just describe a difficulty; you need to analyze your thinking. (Example: A poor diagnosis would be, "I was confused" or "I picked the wrong answer.") A good diagnosis would provide a reason for the errors: "I thought that the Earth's crust and lithosphere were the same."*

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4. What will I do differently next time? Conduct an overall assessment of your performance. This is where you will look for patterns to your errors and think about particular aspects of the test that may have been difficult for you — types of questions you missed, general concepts that were difficult, etc. In your assessment, write about how understanding these issues will impact your science test taking in the future.

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## Lesson 8

# Analyzing Cause and Effect

### In this lesson, you will . . .

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1. Model the analysis strategies in a sample case study to determine the root cause and human impact.
2. Apply that same level of analysis to investigate other cases of environmental change.
3. Use the case study analysis to write a cause-and-effect essay in which you argue the impact of humans on environmental changes.



Activity

2

Acid Rain Case Study: <http://www.nps.gov/nama/blogs/Acid-Rains-Slow-Dissolve.htm>

## Acid Rain's Slow Dissolve

May 22, 2012 Posted by: Megan Nortrup, Science Communicator, National Capital Region

Remember acid rain? Ever wondered if it's still around? Acid rain has not gone away, but it has gotten somewhat better.

Acid rain is a threat to both natural areas and to our national monuments and memorials. Many monuments are made from limestone, marble, and bronze—materials that can be altered or slowly dissolved by acid precipitation. “Slowly” is the key word of course. No one expects the Washington Monument to melt into a toothpick, but acid rain damage may slowly add up for our beloved icons.

### What Exactly is Acid Rain?

Acid rain is rain that contains nitrogen and sulfur oxides washed out of the air. When these oxides mix with water, they create weak acids that lower the pH of rainwater (and snow, fog, or dew too). Liquids with a pH less than 7 are acidic, and those with a pH greater than 7 are alkaline (or basic). “Clean” or unpolluted rain has a slightly acidic pH of 5.6, while acid rain can have a pH as low as 4.

### Washington, D.C.'s Rain is Better, But Still Has a Ways to Go

In 1997, the average rain pH around Washington, D.C. was between 4.2 and 4.4.

Now, thanks in part to federal regulations that limit the amount of nitrogen and sulfur oxides that industries produce, the pH of rain in Washington, D.C. has improved. In 2010, the average pH of rain around Washington, D.C. was 4.8 to 4.9. You can see evidence of acid rain's effects in several spots on the National Mall.

### The Evidence

When acids in polluted air react with calcite, a calcium-containing mineral in marble and limestone, the calcite dissolves. In exposed areas of buildings and statues, acid rain effects show up as roughened surfaces instead of smooth ones, as pits and pocks where material was removed, and as a loss of carved details. Stone surface material may be lost all over or only in spots that are more reactive.

Sheltered areas on limestone and marble buildings and monuments that rain does not directly touch are at risk too. Sulfur dioxide gas in the air still reacts with calcite in stone, creating black crusts that sometimes peel off, revealing crumbling stone beneath. The black crust is primarily made of the mineral gypsum, which is normally washed away from exposed surfaces by rain. Gypsum is white, but the crystals trap particles of dirt and pollutants as they form, so the crust looks black.

### Cleaning the Jefferson Memorial's volutes

One of the striking effects acid precipitation is having on the marble in the Thomas Jefferson Memorial is the loss of silicate mineral inclusions in the marble columns as the calcite matrix holding them together is dissolved. Close examination of the grooves on the columns shows glittery flakes of mica and sometimes grains of pyrite. Loss of material has resulted in a weakening of the stone. In order to prevent stone from falling, ties were placed around the volutes, the scrolls atop the



Cleaning the Jefferson Memorial's volutes

columns, to support them. Before restoration work in 2004, black crusts were visible on the column capitals (tops) that are sheltered from rain and from regular washing of the monument. Black crusts can be removed by intermittent water misting, which softens the crust allowing it to be carefully removed.

### **The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial**

The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial, across the street from the Capitol Building, shows the effects that acid rain has on bronze, a metal alloy consisting of copper and a small amount of tin. The green stains on the statue's marble pedestal come from dissolved and oxidized copper as it runs down from the statue to the ground. The statues show typical deterioration of bronzes in an urban outdoor environment. Similar to stone, areas that do not receive a regular wash from rain trap particles of dirt and pollutants resulting in disfiguring streaks. The NPS's specially trained statue preservation crew periodically washes the bronze statues of the National Mall and Memorial Parks with a conservation detergent and applies a microcrystalline wax to a surface heated with torches. The wax protects the metal for one to two years, depending on exposure, and is easily renewed. (In 2011, the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial was transferred to the care of the Architect of the Capitol.)



*Green streaks are evidence of acid rain's effect on the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial*

### **Beyond the National Mall**

Acid rain affects natural areas too, especially lakes, streams, and watersheds. It changes water chemistry in ways that can affect algae, fish, aquatic plants, frogs, salamanders, and other aquatic creatures. For example, acidic pH levels in lake and stream waters cause naturally-occurring aluminum compounds to become more toxic to fish and amphibians. Trees and other plants can exhibit visible death of plant tissue, break down of the waxy covering on leaves, faster leaching of leaf nutrients, and conifers (like pines) can show reduced seed sprouting and seedling growth. Some lichens are also especially sensitive to acid rain.

### **What You Can Do to Help**

It is important to do your part and help limit the creation of the chemicals that cause acid rain. Nitrogen oxides ("nox") and sulfur oxides ("sox") are produced in small amounts naturally but in large amounts by power plants and industries. Nox is also produced by vehicle exhaust, oil and gas production, fertilized crops, livestock production, and municipal and residential activities. To reduce your impact, you can cut down on activities that produce these chemicals.

Thanks for joining us in caring for these special monuments and memorials that make our National Mall great.

Global Warming Case Study: <http://www.actionbioscience.org/environment/chanton.html>

## Global Warming & Rising Oceans

*Humans rely heavily on fossil fuels in this industrial age.*

*Carbon dioxide output has accelerated with the increased use of fossil fuels.*

The deep ocean seafloor is often a cold, dark place, barren of life. But from time to time a large bounty such as a whale carcass will drift down from the surface. Then sea life explodes: all manner of worms and other invertebrates arrive in larval form to colonize the dead organic matter and population increases dramatically — for a short time. Inevitably the resource dwindles and the population collapses.

In a similar fashion, humans now live upon the resource of dead organic matter. We've found our dead whale below ground, in the form of oil, gas and coal — the fossil remains of plants that lived long ago.

Fossil energy has fueled the advent and development of the industrial age and allowed human population to explode. The product of our industrial respiration, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), has increased in the atmosphere and now threatens to spoil our nest. The atmosphere does more than provide us with oxygen to breathe, it controls the heat balance of the world. The trouble is, compared to the ocean, the atmosphere is relatively small in mass, so human-induced changes can affect it dramatically.

*Our atmosphere is small in mass, so changes to it are serious.*

### The greenhouse effect

- Prior to the advent of the industrial age, the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere was about 280 ppm (parts per million).
- Today it's over 360 ppm. That's an increase of about 30% in less than 300 years.

*There is now more CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere than ever before in human history.*

For the earth, this is an unprecedented rate of change, about 10,000 years' worth of change compressed into 100 years. And there is more CO<sub>2</sub> in our air now than at any time since humans evolved, more than anytime over the last million years! The earth is used to slow changes, not fast ones. Slow changes allow the biosphere and earth's species time to adjust. Quick change may cause biological chaos and disrupt agricultural production. Carbon dioxide is critical to controlling the earth's heat balance because it absorbs infrared radiation (IR), basically heat.

- Coming to earth from the sun, visible radiation passes through the clear atmosphere and hits the earth.
- A portion of it is absorbed and re-radiated back to space as IR.
- CO<sub>2</sub> traps this IR and reflects it back to the earth's surface, causing further warming.

*The greenhouse effect — the warming of our atmosphere — relies on CO<sub>2</sub>.*

This is called the greenhouse effect. Without it, water would freeze on earth. With too much greenhouse effect, water would boil off, leaving the surface of earth a desert. This may have been what happened on earth's neighbor, Venus. There is a delicate balance between sunlight, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, and heat that we must be careful not to disrupt.

To illustrate the greenhouse effect, consider a car with the windows rolled up:

The heat on Earth would be unbearable with too much greenhouse effect.

- The sun's rays pass through the car's windows (visible light), and hit the car's seats.



- There the visible light is absorbed, and re-radiated to the interior of the car as IR.
- But the car's glass windows, while transparent to visible light, are opaque to IR, so the heat is trapped within the car, and the car's interior temperature becomes unbearable.

So that's why many scientists think that increasing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the air may well cause the earth to get warmer.

### Rising oceans

*Glaciers are already melting on 5 continents.*

Global sea level rise is caused by two factors. One is the delivery of water to the ocean as land ice melts, such as mountain glaciers and polar icecaps. Current evidence of global warming includes the widespread retreat of glaciers on 5 continents. For example:

- The ice cap on Mount Kilimanjaro may be gone in 20 years. About 1/3 of Kilimanjaro's ice field has disappeared in the last 12 years and 82% of it has vanished since it was first mapped in 1912.
- Sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is thinning.
- Massive Antarctic ice sheets have collapsed into the sea with alarming rapidity.

*As water temperatures rise, oceans spread, the 20th century has seen a dramatic rise in sea levels.*

The second factor is the thermal expansion of water within the oceans. As the temperature of the waters in the oceans rises and the seas become less dense, they will spread, occupying more surface area on the planet. Increased temperature will accelerate the rate of sea level rise.

Since the end of the last ice age, 18,000 years ago, sea level has risen by over 120 meters.

- Geological data suggests that global average sea level may have risen at an average rate of 0.1 to 0.2 mm/yr over the last 3000 years.
- However, tide gauge data indicate that the global rate of sea level rise during the 20th century was 1 to 2 mm/yr.

Along relatively flat coastlines, such as those of the Atlantic, or coastlines bordering fertile, highly populated river deltas, a 1 mm rise in sea level causes a shoreline retreat of about 1.5 meters. We are already seeing evidence of shoreline retreat in the U.S.:

*Coastal U.S. has seen beach erosion and dying coastal plants.*

- Along the marshy Gulf Coast of Florida, the effects of sea level rise can be observed in the number of dead cabbage palms at the seaward edge of the salt marsh.
- Along the Atlantic Coast of the USA, erosion is narrowing beaches and washing out vacation houses. As sea level rises and coastal communities continue to grow and pump water from aquifers, salt water intrusion into groundwater will become a greater problem.

Low-lying Pacific island nations will be inundated or the rising sea level will invade their drinking water aquifers.



*Some animals depend on sea ice for survival, like this mother and pup ribbon seal (*Histiophoca fasciata*). Sea ice is thinning at an alarming rate. Photo: Dave Withrow, 2007 Bering Sea Ice Expedition, NOAA.*

*Land of some island nations is being submerged under water.*

- Tuvalu comprises nine coral atolls between Australia and Hawaii. Their highest point is 5 meters (15 feet) above sea level. As sea level has risen, Tuvalu has experienced lowland flooding. Saltwater intrusion is adversely affecting drinking water and food production. Tuvalu's leaders predict that the nation will be submerged in 50 years. In March 2002, the country's prime minister appealed to Australia and New Zealand to provide homes for his people if his country is washed away, but the plight of this nation is being ignored.
- Other threatened island nations include the Cook Islands and the Marshall Islands. During the last decade, the island of Majuro (Marshall Islands) has lost up to 20 per cent of its beachfront.

*The near future could see millions of "climate refugees."*

In addition to island nations, low-lying coastal countries are threatened by rising sea level. A 1 meter rise in sea level would inundate half of Bangladesh's rice land. Bangladeshis would be forced to migrate by the millions. Other rice growing lowlands which would be flooded include those of Viet Nam, China, India and Thailand. Millions of climate refugees could be created by sea level rise in the Philippines, Indonesia and Egypt.

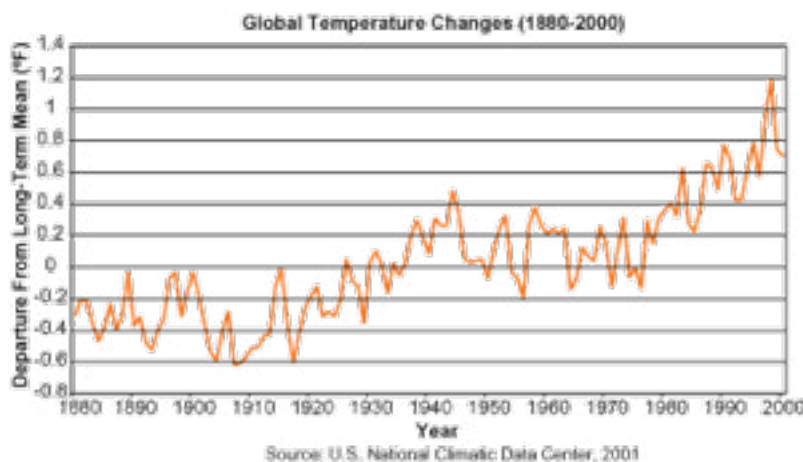
*Earth has been experiencing the 10 warmest years on record.*

*Current rate of fossil fuel consumption indicates that the carbon dioxide content of the air will double by 2100.*

### **Changing climate**

The 10 warmest years on record have been since 1983 and the 7 warmest years on record have been since 1990. If business continues as usual, our current rate of fossil fuel consumption indicates that the carbon dioxide content of the air will double by 2100.

- This doubling will enhance the greenhouse effect and result in a 1 to 5 degree Centigrade increase in global temperature.
- Land areas will warm more rapidly than the global average as the temperature of oceanic areas will be moderated by the heat capacity of water.
- Warming will also be greatest at higher latitudes, for in the past, climate change has affected the earth's polar regions to the greatest extent.
- Humidity effects, included in the heat index, will exacerbate warming effects.



*Warming trends will affect plant distributions and animal habitats.*

*Increased rain variability — wetter conditions: more insect pests; drier conditions: more wildfires*

*Climate extremes kill plants and animals.*

In addition to rising oceans, warmer temperatures will likely affect:

#### *Ecosystems*

Warming trends will change the distribution of trees and other native plants, altering animal habitat. Models predict the northward retreat of temperate tree species and the northward advancement of tropical and subtropical species. But individual species will respond differently to climate change. Communities of species will not simply march back and forth, chasing the ice caps. Normal associations of plants and animals may be disrupted. Human barriers such as motorway corridors may present significant obstacles for migrating native species to jump, allowing the spread and dominance of weedy and exotic plants.

#### *Rainfall patterns*

Changing climate will change rainfall patterns. Drier conditions lead to increased wildfires while wetter conditions can result in more insect pests like mosquitoes and pine beetles. Increased CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere can stimulate plant growth, but there is evidence that plants growing under elevated carbon dioxide contain less nitrogen in their foliage, thus making them less nutritious to grazers.

#### *Climate variability*

Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> may also affect climatic variability. Extremes kill plants and wildlife. For example, consider a period of time where variability increases but the long-term average is constant. Plants may be killed if the temperature falls below freezing for even a few hours. Likewise birds and insects may die if temperatures get too warm. Increasing variability is a big event, without even considering long-term change.

### **How can we stop global warming?**

*Conclusion: Making energy-efficient choices and developing alternative energy sources will alleviate global warming.*

There is no immediate fix to the problem other than to curtail our use of fossil energy. As individuals we can help in the short term:

- We need to drive smaller vehicles and heat and cool our buildings more moderately.
- Carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced if consumers purchase more energy-efficient appliances, such as new refrigerators.
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs save tremendous amounts of fuel.

But in the long term, we need to extract energy more efficiently from fossil fuels and to develop alternative energy sources that do not lead to the production of greenhouse gases. By doubling the concentration of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, we are conducting a planetary wager — one we can't afford to lose.

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Fertilizer Runoff Case Study: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fertilizer-runoff-overwhelms-streams/>

## Fertilizer Runoff Overwhelms Streams and Rivers — Creating Vast “Dead Zones”

The nation’s waterways are brimming with excess nitrogen from fertilizer — and plans to boost biofuel production threaten to aggravate an already serious situation

By David Biello | March 14, 2008

The water in brooks, streams and creeks from Michigan to Puerto Rico carries a heavy load of pollutants, particularly nitrates from fertilizers. These nitrogen and oxygen molecules that crops need to grow eventually make their way into rivers, lakes and oceans, fertilizing blooms of algae that deplete oxygen and leave vast “dead zones” in their wake. There, no fish or typical sea life can survive. And scientists warn that a federal mandate to produce more biofuel may make the situation even worse.

Researchers led by aquatic ecologist Patrick Mulholland of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee report in *Nature* that streams and other waterways are losing their ability to filter excess nitrates from fertilizers and sewage. They discovered this by releasing a concentrated nitrate solution carrying an unusual isotope of nitrogen into 72 different streams — ranging from heavily altered urban waterways to pristine rivulets — and then tracked the isotope to find out how much made it downstream. The amount at the end indicated each stream’s ability to naturally remove the pollutant — a measure of its health.

“We found that they continue to take up nitrate, but they remove a smaller fraction of the overall nitrate as you overload them,” Mulholland says. “This is probably the reason we’re seeing hypoxia [low oxygen levels] and other problems in coastal waters.”

Typically, bacteria remove excess fertilizer from water through a chemical process known as denitrification, which enables them to convert nitrate to nitrogen that is then released into the atmosphere as a gas. The team found, however, that bacteria in the streams they studied only eliminated an average of 16 percent of the nitrogen pollution; bacteria in the most undisturbed streams performed the best, removing as much as 43 percent.

“Denitrification is the only process that we know for sure removes nitrogen from water,” Mulholland says. “The other 84 percent [of the pollution] was just taken up by algae, microbes and other organisms in the stream bottom. A portion of that is probably also denitrified, and it could be a large portion. But we don’t know that fate of that material.”

What is clear is that a significant portion of such fertilizer is still making its way through the soil and water to the sea. As a result, algae and other microorganisms take up the nitrogen, bloom and, after they die, suck the oxygen out of coastal waters. Such “dead zones” have appeared seasonally near most major river mouths, including those emptying into Maryland’s Chesapeake Bay as well as



©LAURA JOHNSON

the Gulf of Mexico, where lifeless waters now cover more than 7,700 square miles (20,000 square kilometers) during the summer months.

The bulk of this nitrate comes from fertilizer running off agricultural fields. Scientists warn that a boom in crops such as corn for biofuel will only make matters worse. Last year, U.S. farmers planted more than 90 million acres (35 million hectares) of corn for the first time since the 1940s as a result of growing demand for that crop for both fuel and food.

Based on this trend, geographer Simon Donner of the University of British Columbia and atmospheric scientist Christopher Kucharik of the University of Wisconsin–Madison predict that nitrogen pollution from the Mississippi River Basin — the nation’s largest watershed — will increase as much as 34 percent by 2022 if corn kernels continue to be the source of a growing proportion of ethanol fuel that U.S. energy legislation mandates.

That would also make it almost impossible, they say, to reduce the New Jersey-sized dead zone at the Mississippi’s outlet into the Gulf of Mexico to less than 2,000 square miles (5,000 square kilometers), as recommended by a 2001 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency task force.

In fact, the scientists wrote this week in [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), the only way to increase ethanol production from corn and reduce nitrogen runoff would be for Americans to stop eating meat, thereby freeing up corn used as livestock feed for other uses.

Potential solutions to overloaded streams seem equally difficult, such as restoring their natural flow or reducing the fertilizer and sewage draining into them. “We need to either maintain or, in many cases, restore the integrity of this stream network, including the smallest streams,” Mulholland says. “That [also] means not utilizing all the land to grow crops.”

He adds: “Certainly, the outlook is not great because there is a lot of pressure to go in the other direction.”

Ozone Depletion Case Study: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/05/100505-science-environment-ozone-hole-25-years/>

## Whatever Happened to the Ozone Hole?

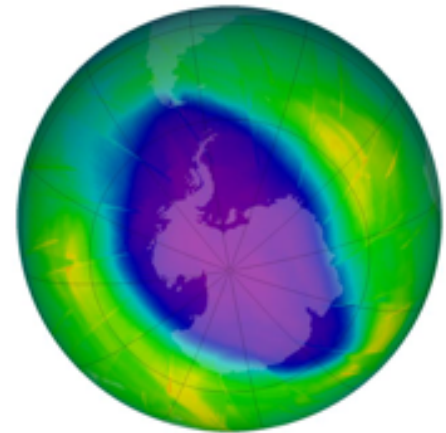
By Brian Handwerk, for *National Geographic News*

### What would the 1980s have been without big hair and ice-cold wine coolers?

Luckily no one had to find out: Key substitutions in hairsprays and refrigerants allowed such products to exist without chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which were found to be ripping a huge “hole” in Earth’s protective ozone layer.

Today the ozone hole, which was first spotted 25 years ago, appears headed for a happy ending, thanks to unprecedented international action.

Could a similar effort rein in climate change? And is the closing ozone hole actually making global warming worse?



*Satellite data show the Antarctic ozone hole as it appeared last fall.*

IMAGE COURTESY NASA

### Ozone at High Risk From CFCs

The ozone layer lies between about 9.3 and 18.6 miles (15 and 30 kilometers) above Earth’s surface. This blanket of ozone, or O<sub>3</sub>, blocks most of the sun’s high-frequency ultraviolet rays.

These UV rays can cause skin cancer and cataracts in humans, as well as reproductive problems in fish, crabs, frogs, and even in the single-celled phytoplankton at the bottom of the ocean food chain.

Ozone is created naturally when oxygen molecules (O<sub>2</sub>) high in the atmosphere get broken by sunlight into two free oxygen atoms. A free atom can then bond with an unbroken O<sub>2</sub> molecule, and ozone is born.

Ozone is unstable, however, and it’s easily broken up by trace elements.

Invented in the 1920s, CFCs proved to be an exceptional problem for ozone, because many of these synthetic chemicals can persist for decades, allowing them to make their way into the upper atmosphere. (Related: “[Rocket Launches Damage Ozone Layer, Study Says.](#)”)

In that rarefied air, ultraviolet light breaks the molecular bonds in CFCs and free chlorine atoms get released. Chlorine then destroys ozone molecules by “stealing” their oxygen atoms.

### Ozone Hole a Shocking Surprise

Scientists had theorized since the 1970s about the chemistry that could lead to ozone depletion. But in May 1985 scientists with the British Antarctic Survey shocked the world when they announced the discovery of a huge hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica.

Technically a substantial thinning of the ozone layer, the ozone “hole” has been opening every spring since the 1970s, the scientists reported.

Their data, collected at the Halley Research Station in Antarctica, suggested that CFCs were to blame. That’s because atmospheric conditions during the cold, dark, Antarctic winters were building stockpiles of CFCs over the South Pole.

Returning spring sunshine would then spawn an abundance of free chlorine, depleting ozone levels above Antarctica by as much as 65 percent. (Related: “[Laughing](#)”)

“One lesson is that the planet can change very rapidly in an unexpected way,” said Jonathan Shanklin, one of the British scientists who made the ozone hole discovery and co-author of a paper on the ozone hole anniversary appearing in this week’s issue of the journal [Nature](#).

“Nobody was expecting to see anything like this in the Antarctic.”

### **Fixing the Ozone Hole a Unanimous Decision**

The disturbing discovery set the stage for an environmental triumph: the Montreal Protocol of 1987.

This pact to phase out the use of CFCs and restore the ozone layer was eventually signed by every country in the United Nations — the first UN treaty to achieve universal ratification.

The unparalleled cooperation has had a major impact.

“If we had just kept letting CFCs increase at a pretty nominal rate, characteristic of the 1970s, the decreased ozone levels of the hole would have eventually covered the entire planet,” said atmospheric physicist Paul Newman of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center.

“Global ozone dropped a little bit [after CFCs were banned], but the good news is that if we had done nothing, it would have gotten really, really bad.”

Now a complete rebound seems imminent. Some scientists project that by 2080 global ozone will return to 1950s levels.

(Related: “[Old Fridges, Cars Slow Ozone Hole Recovery, Scientists Say](#).”)

### **Now How About Global Warming?**

As climate scientists around the globe urge action to curb greenhouse gas emissions, might the ozone hole experience provide some useful parallels? Perhaps, experts say — but the situations do have some significant differences.

In the 1980s people were faced with the clear and present health dangers from ozone depletion, leading to widespread public support for CFC bans.

“There was a scary side of the ozone hole, linked to skin cancers and cataracts and so on, which immediately engaged the public,” the British Antarctic Survey’s Shanklin said. “The real impact of what a rapidly warming world could do is not so obviously intuitive.”

Chemical manufacturers were also able to create substitutes for CFCs with little added costs, enabling governments to address the problem without great impacts on the economy or average lifestyle.

Global warming, on the other hand, has become a politically loaded and often divisive topic.

And many potential fixes to the problem — such as alternative energies and reduced consumption — could cause major disruptions to economic and geopolitical norms in a way that replacing CFCs simply did not, Shanklin said.

### **Ozone Recovery to Warm Antarctica?**

Meanwhile, some scientists say the environmental triumph of a recovering ozone layer could have a troubling side effect: boosting global warming, at least in the Antarctic region.

Ozone itself is a greenhouse gas. A thinner ozone layer not only reduced heat trapped over the region, it helped stir circumpolar winds, which in turn created sea spray that formed reflective, cooling clouds.

“It’s very difficult to quantify the impact on a global scale, but I think the evidence suggests filling the hole will have a regional effect on the Antarctic, possibly leading to more warming for the bulk of the Antarctic,” Shanklin said. “That could drastically change predictions about global sea level change.”

Ken Carslaw of the U.K.’s University of Leeds was a co-author on the study that suggested closing the ozone hole would lead to a bump in Antarctic warming. Still, he thinks that any warming mitigation produced by the ozone hole was merely a side effect and not a net gain.

“I wouldn’t say that these discoveries [of possible warming] suggest the formation of the ozone hole was a good thing,” he said.

NASA’s Newman agreed: “The consequences of unabated CFC growth were disastrous for life,” he said.

“So at some point you had to act, and fortunately they acted before it became a really severe problem. We never got to the level of an environmental catastrophe.

“It really is a testament to the good science that went into [understanding] the ozone hole and the nerve of the politicians to act on that science.”



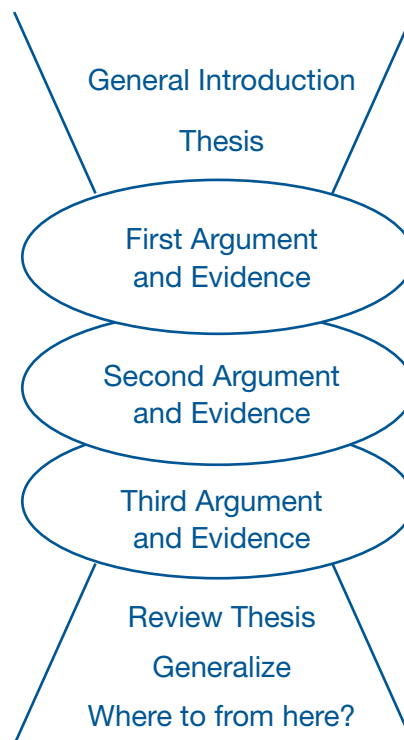
Activity

### 3 Argumentative Essay: Human Impact on the Environment

After researching case studies of environmental changes, write an essay that argues the causes of the environmental problems and explains the effects humans on the environment. What conclusions can you draw? Support your discussion with evidence from the texts.

Your essay should consist of five paragraphs and be no more than two pages in length and should follow a basic format:

1. Introduce the environmental changes that were examined in the case studies.
2. Lead to your thesis (argument) on the impact humans have on these environmental changes.
3. Support your thesis with three arguments or reasons, each with specific evidence from the text.
4. Draw a conclusion that refers back to your thesis and generalizes about the role of humans in changing the environment as a whole.
5. Based on your conclusions, what implications does this have for humans in making decisions regarding the environment?



## Pre-Write Organizer

Introduction:

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Thesis:

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First Argument:

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Evidence:

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Second Argument:

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Evidence:

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Third Argument:

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Evidence:

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Essay Scoring Rubric							
Scoring Elements	Emerging		Approaches Expectations		Meets Expectations		Advanced
	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
<b>Controlling Idea</b>	Attempts to address the prompt and make a claim, but it is unclear or unfocused.		Addresses the prompt appropriately and makes a claim, with an uneven focus.		Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately and establishes and maintains a clear claim.		Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately and establishes and maintains a clear, generally convincing claim.
<b>Development/ Use of Sources</b>	Refers to details from sources, with irrelevant, incomplete, or inaccurate elements.		Includes relevant details, examples, and/or quotations from sources to support and develop the argument, with minimal explanation or minor errors in explanation.		Accurately explains relevant details, examples, and/or quotations from sources to support and develop the argument.		Thoroughly and accurately explains well-chosen and relevant details, examples, and/or quotations from sources to effectively support and develop the argument.
<b>Organization</b>	Lacks an evident structure. Makes unclear connections among claim, reasons, and evidence.		Uses a basic organizational structure to develop argument. Attempts to use transition words to connect ideas, with minor lapses in coherence or organization.		Uses an appropriate organizational structure to develop argument. Uses transitional phrases to clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.		Maintains an appropriate, logical organizational structure to develop a cohesive argument. Uses varied syntax and transitional phrases that clarify the precise relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.
<b>Conventions</b>	Lacks control of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Uses inappropriate language or tone. Rarely or never cites sources.		Demonstrates an uneven command of standard English conventions. Uses language and tone with some inaccurate, inappropriate, or uneven features. Inconsistently cites sources.		Demonstrates a command of standard English conventions, with few errors. Uses language and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose. Cites sources with minor formatting errors.		Demonstrates and maintains a well-developed command of standard English conventions, with few errors. Consistently uses language and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose. Cites sources using appropriate format.

## Lesson 9

# Synthesizing Information to Make Predictions

### Unit Culminating Task: Prediction Essay

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How does the Earth change and how do humans impact that change? After researching informational texts on factors that change the Earth's surface, create a model and write a prediction in which you argue what the Earth will look like in 1 million years. Support your discussion with evidence from the texts.



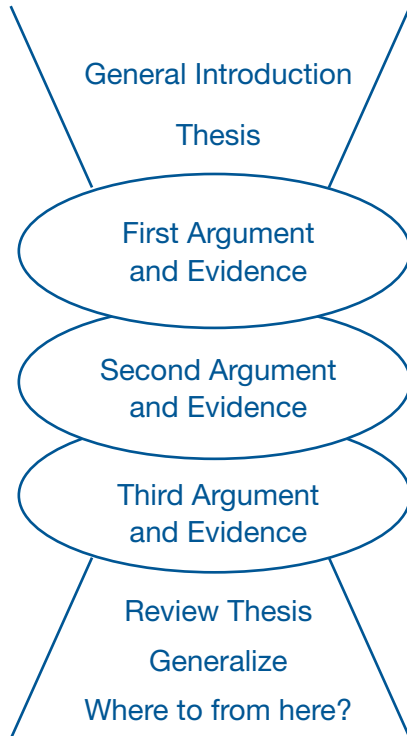






## Pre-Write

Use the graphic below to help you organize your predication essay.



**Rubric (Use the same rubric as for the previous essay.)**



