

Earth Science

Course Number: SC1113

Grade level: 6–8

Credits: 1.0

Prerequisite Courses: None

Course Description

Students enrolled in this dynamic course will explore the scope of Earth sciences, covering everything from basic structure and rock formation to the incredible and volatile forces that have shaped and changed our planet. As climate change and energy conservation become increasingly more prevalent in the national discourse, it will be important for students to understand the concepts and causes of our changing Earth. Intended for middle school students, SC1113 is a two-semester course that will provide a solid foundation for understanding the physical characteristics that make the planet Earth unique and will examine how these characteristics differ among the planets of our solar system.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Describe the formation, identification, and utilization of rocks and minerals
- Explain methods for measuring geological time
- Describe the landforms found on Earth and the factors that have caused them to change over time
- Discuss the importance, availability, and use of Earth's water supply
- Describe the use and conservation of resources
- Explain the impact of weather and climate on various regions of the earth
- Relate Earth to larger systems like the solar system, galaxies, and the universe

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course would. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on the following activities:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, e-mail, chat, and system announcements. Through this communication with your teacher, you will monitor your progress through the course and improve your learning by reviewing material that was challenging for you.

You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face-to-face, as you do the following:

- Collaborate on projects
- Ask and answer questions in your peer group
- Develop speaking and listening skills

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Assignments	10%
Labs	0%
Lesson Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	50%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Additional	0%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into the Virtual Classroom, you can view the entire course map, which provides a scope and sequence of all topics you will study. Clicking a lesson's link in the course map leads to a page listing instructional activities, assignments, and learning objectives specific to that lesson. The units of study are summarized below.

Unit 1: The Planet Earth

Unit 2: Changing Earth

Unit 3: Earth's Waters

Unit 4: Weather and Climate

Unit 5: Astronomy