

# Earth Science Geology The Environment Universe Answer Key

Earth Science Geology The Environment Universe Answer Key Earth Science Geology The Environment Universe Answer Key This document serves as an answer key for a comprehensive Earth Science curriculum encompassing geology the environment and the universe It is intended to be a reference guide for students teachers and anyone interested in exploring the intricacies of our planet and its place in the cosmos The document is structured to facilitate a clear understanding of key concepts and their interconnections I Earth Science Our Dynamic Planet II to Earth Science What is Earth Science The study of Earths physical systems including geology oceanography meteorology and astronomy Why Study Earth Science To understand our planet its resources its changing environment and our place in the universe 12 Earths Structure Layers of the Earth Crust The thin outermost layer composed of various rocks Mantle The thick layer beneath the crust composed of hot dense rock Outer Core Liquid layer composed primarily of iron and nickel Inner Core Solid layer composed primarily of iron and nickel Plate Tectonics The theory explaining the movement of Earths lithosphere crust and upper mantle in large plates Continental Drift The theory that continents were once joined together and have since drifted apart Seafloor Spreading The process of new oceanic crust being created at midocean ridges Subduction The process of one tectonic plate sliding beneath another 13 Earths Processes Volcanoes Openings in Earths crust where molten rock magma erupts Types of Volcanoes Shield composite cinder cone 2 Volcanic Hazards Lava flows ash clouds pyroclastic flows Earthquakes Sudden releases of energy in Earths crust causing seismic waves Causes of Earthquakes Plate movements volcanic activity Measuring Earthquakes Richter scale moment magnitude scale Weathering and Erosion Processes that break down and transport rocks Physical Weathering Mechanical breakdown of rocks Chemical Weathering Decomposition of rocks through chemical reactions Erosion The transport of weathered material by wind water ice or gravity II Geology The Study of Rocks and Minerals 21 Minerals Definition of a Mineral A naturally occurring solid inorganic substance with a definite chemical composition and crystal structure Mineral Properties Hardness color streak luster cleavage fracture density Common Minerals Quartz feldspar mica calcite halite 22 Rocks Rock Cycle The continuous process of rocks transforming from one type to another Types of Rocks Igneous Rocks Formed from cooled and solidified magma or lava Intrusive Igneous Rocks Formed from magma that cools beneath Earths surface Extrusive Igneous Rocks Formed from lava that cools on Earths surface Sedimentary Rocks Formed from the accumulation and cementation of sediments Clastic Sedimentary Rocks Formed from fragments of other rocks Chemical Sedimentary Rocks Formed from the precipitation of minerals from solution Organic Sedimentary Rocks Formed from the remains of organisms Metamorphic Rocks Formed when existing rocks are transformed by heat pressure or chemical reactions Foliated Metamorphic Rocks Exhibit a layered or banded appearance Nonfoliated Metamorphic Rocks Do not

exhibit a layered appearance III The Environment Our Living Planet 31 Environmental Science Definition of Environmental Science The study of the interactions between humans and the natural world Key Environmental Issues Climate change pollution biodiversity loss resource depletion 3 32 Ecosystems Definition of an Ecosystem A community of organisms and their physical environment Components of an Ecosystem Producers consumers decomposers abiotic factors Ecosystem Services The benefits humans derive from ecosystems such as clean air water and food 33 Pollution Types of Pollution Air pollution water pollution soil pollution noise pollution Sources of Pollution Industrial activities transportation agriculture Impacts of Pollution Human health problems environmental damage 34 Climate Change Causes of Climate Change Greenhouse gases primarily carbon dioxide Impacts of Climate Change Rising sea levels extreme weather events changes in plant and animal life Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change IV The Universe Our Cosmic Home 41 Astronomy Definition of Astronomy The study of celestial objects and phenomena The Solar System The Sun and all the objects that orbit around it including planets moons asteroids and comets Planets Mercury Venus Earth Mars Jupiter Saturn Uranus Neptune Moons Natural satellites that orbit planets Asteroids Rocky bodies orbiting the Sun mostly found in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter Comets Icy bodies that orbit the Sun leaving trails of gas and dust as they approach the Sun 42 Stars Stellar Evolution The life cycle of stars from birth to death Nebula A cloud of gas and dust where stars are born Main Sequence Star A star in the stable phase of its life cycle Red Giant A star that has expanded and cooled as it runs out of hydrogen fuel Supernova A massive explosion that occurs at the end of a stars life 43 Galaxies Definition of a Galaxy A vast collection of stars gas dust and dark matter held together by gravity Types of Galaxies Spiral elliptical irregular The Milky Way Galaxy The galaxy in which our Solar System resides 44 Cosmology The Big Bang Theory The prevailing theory for the origin of the universe Expansion of the Universe The observation that galaxies are moving farther apart Dark Matter and Dark Energy Mysterious substances that are thought to make up the majority of the universes mass and energy V Conclusion This answer key provides a comprehensive overview of the key concepts in Earth Science Geology the Environment and the Universe It serves as a starting point for further exploration and understanding of our dynamic planet and its place in the vast expanse of the cosmos It is crucial to continue learning and exploring these topics as they are essential for our understanding of the world around us and for shaping a sustainable future

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