

Chapter 1 Introduction to Earth Science

# Section 1.1 What Is Earth Science?

(pages 2–5)


*This section explains what Earth science is and what Earth scientists study.*

## Reading Strategy (page 2)

**Categorizing** As you read about the different branches of Earth science, list some of the things that are studied in each branch. For more information on this Reading Strategy, see the **Reading and Study Skills** in the **Skills and Reference Handbook** at the end of your textbook.

<b>geology</b>	a.
<b>oceanography</b>	b.
<b>meteorology</b>	c.
<b>astronomy</b>	d.

## Overview of Earth Science (pages 2–3)

1.  Circle the letters of the topics studied in Earth science.

  - a. Earth’s atmosphere
  - b. Earth’s surface
  - c. Earth’s neighbors in space
2. What does the word *geology* mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
3. Is the following sentence true or false? Geology is divided into two broad areas—physical geology and historical geology. \_\_\_\_\_
4. What do physical geologists study? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
5. Rocks and minerals form in response to Earth’s internal and \_\_\_\_\_ processes.

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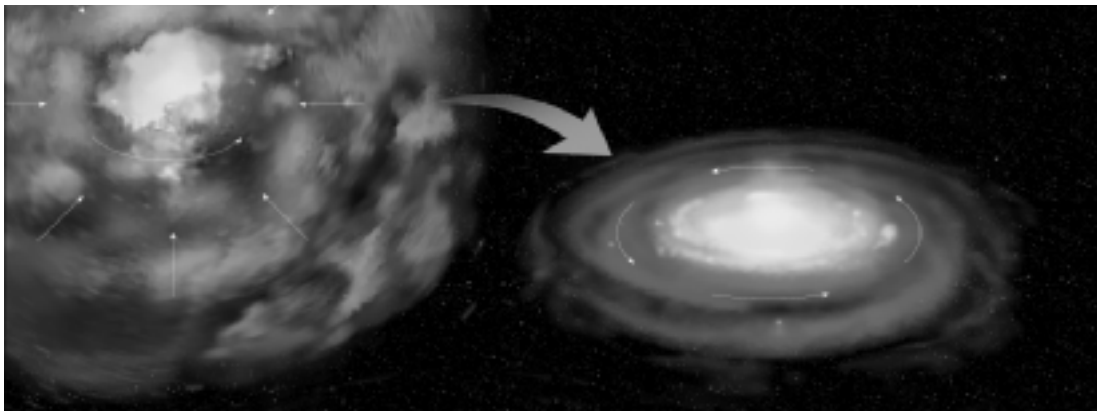
6. Historical geologists try to establish a timeline of the vast number of \_\_\_\_\_ and biological changes that have occurred in the past.
7. What do oceanographers study? \_\_\_\_\_
8. The study of the atmosphere and the processes that produce weather and climate is \_\_\_\_\_. Circle the correct answer.  
astronomy meteorology physics

### Formation of Earth (pages 3-5)

9. The \_\_\_\_\_ hypothesis suggests that the bodies of our solar system evolved from an enormous rotating cloud called the solar nebula. Choose the correct answer.

nebular solar cloud

Look at the diagram. It shows the first two stages of the formation of the solar system according to the nebular hypothesis. Complete the sentences below about these stages using the terms in the box.



cloud heat helium sun

10. Our solar system began as an enormous \_\_\_\_\_ of dust and gases made up mostly of hydrogen and \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Then the cloud started to rotate and collapse toward the center of the cloud. \_\_\_\_\_ was generated at the center, which eventually formed the \_\_\_\_\_.