

What Is Earth Science?

KEY IDEAS

As you read this section, keep these questions in mind:

- What are two cultures that contributed to modern science?
- What are the four main branches of Earth science?
- How do Earth scientists help us understand the world?

How Did Ancient People Study Earth?

People have wondered about natural events on Earth for thousands of years. They felt earthquakes shake the ground, saw volcanoes erupt, and watched eclipses darken the sky.

Some people created myths or stories to explain how these events happened. Others carefully watched and studied these events. They tried to learn what caused the events. Each time someone discovered a possible cause, it helped people develop explanations for other events.

The table below shows some historical observations that were important to the study of Earth.

Approximate Date	Development
780 BCE	People in China began to keep records about earthquakes.
200 BCE	Ancient Greeks gathered and recorded information about rocks and minerals.
300–900 CE	Ancient Maya watched the moon and recorded information about eclipses.
1600s	The microscope was invented.
1700s	The telescope was invented.

For a long time, people could use only their unaided eyes to study Earth and space. After the telescope and microscope were invented, people could observe objects and events more clearly. For example, Galileo used a telescope to see Jupiter's moons.

Today, scientists continue to study the natural world. **Earth science** is the study of Earth and the universe around it. Earth scientists use observations and experiments to find the causes of events in nature. 

READING TOOLBOX

Organize As you read this section, make a spider map that identifies the major branches of Earth science. Add details about each branch, such as what it focuses on and how knowledge from that branch can be helpful to society.



READING CHECK

1. **Define** What is Earth science?

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Designed especially to help prepare students taking the New York State Regents Examination this book makes a valuable supplementary text for high school level Earth Science classes throughout the country Organized into three main study units astronomy meteorology and geology this book provides extensive subject review material with updated questions and answers It also includes one recently given full length Regents Exam in Earth Science **Earth Science Power Pack** Edward J. Denecke (Jr),2001-05-20

The Enigmatic Realm of **Earth Science Holt Mcdougal Answers Section Reviews**: Unleashing the Language is Inner Magic

In a fast-paced digital era where connections and knowledge intertwine, the enigmatic realm of language reveals its inherent magic. Its capacity to stir emotions, ignite contemplation, and catalyze profound transformations is nothing lacking extraordinary. Within the captivating pages of **Earth Science Holt Mcdougal Answers Section Reviews** a literary masterpiece penned by way of a renowned author, readers set about a transformative journey, unlocking the secrets and untapped potential embedded within each word. In this evaluation, we shall explore the book is core themes, assess its distinct writing style, and delve into its lasting effect on the hearts and minds of those that partake in its reading experience.

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