

DCI: Earth's Place in the Universe

HS.ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System

Cyclical changes in the shape of Earth's orbit around the sun, together with changes in the tilt of the planet's axis of rotation, both occurring over hundreds of thousands of years, have altered the intensity and distribution of sunlight falling on the earth. These phenomena cause a cycle of ice ages and other gradual climate changes. (HS-ESS2-4)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems

Earth's systems, being dynamic and interacting, cause feedback effects that can increase or decrease the original changes. (HS-ESS2-1), (HS-ESS2-2)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems

Evidence from deep probes and seismic waves, reconstructions of historical changes in Earth's surface and its magnetic field, and an understanding of physical and chemical processes lead to a model of Earth with a hot but solid inner core, a liquid outer core, a solid mantle and crust. Motions of the mantle and its plates occur primarily through thermal convection, which involves the cycling of matter due to the outward flow of energy from Earth's interior and gravitational movement of denser materials toward the interior. (HS-ESS2-3)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems

The geological record shows that changes to global and regional climate can be caused by interactions among changes in the sun's energy output or Earth's orbit, tectonic events, ocean circulation, volcanic activity, glaciers, vegetation, and human activities. These changes can occur on a variety of time scales from sudden (e.g., volcanic ash clouds) to intermediate (ice ages) to very long term tectonic cycles. (HS-ESS2-4)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large Scale System Interactions

The radioactive decay of unstable isotopes continually generates new energy within Earth's crust and mantle, providing the primary source of the heat that drives mantle convection. Plate tectonics can be viewed as the surface expression of mantle convection. (HS-ESS2-3)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large Scale System Interactions

Plate tectonics is the unifying theory that explains the past and current movements of the rocks at Earth's surface and provides a framework for understanding its geologic history. Plate movements are responsible for most continental and ocean floor features and for the distribution of most rocks and minerals within Earth's crust. (HS-ESS2-1)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large Scale System Interactions

Plate movements are responsible for most continental and ocean floor features and for the distribution of most rocks and minerals within Earth's crust. (HS-ESS2-1)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes

The abundance of liquid water on Earth's surface and its unique combination of physical and chemical properties are central to the planet's dynamics. These properties include water's exceptional capacity to absorb, store, and release large amounts of energy, transmit sunlight, expand upon freezing, dissolve and transport materials, and lower the viscosities and melting points of rocks. (HS-ESS2-5)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.D: Weather and Climate

The foundation for Earth's global climate systems is the electromagnetic radiation from the sun, as well as its reflection, absorption, storage, and redistribution among the atmosphere, ocean, and land systems, and this energy's re-radiation into space. (HS-ESS2-2), (HS-ESS2-4)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.D: Weather and Climate

Gradual atmospheric changes were due to plants and other organisms that captured carbon dioxide and released oxygen. (HS-ESS2-6), (HS-ESS2-7)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.D: Weather and Climate

Gradual atmospheric changes were due to plants and other organisms that captured carbon dioxide and released oxygen. (HS-ESS2-6), (HS-ESS2-7)

DCI: Earth's Systems

HS.ESS2.E: Biogeology

The many dynamic and delicate feedbacks between the biosphere and other Earth systems cause a continual coevolution of Earth's surface and the life that exists on it. (HS-ESS2-7)

Science and Engineering Practices

Developing and Using Models

Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed world(s). Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS-ESS2-1), (HS-ESS2-3), (HS-ESS2-6)

Science and Engineering Practices

Developing and Using Models

Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed world(s).

Use a model to provide mechanistic accounts of phenomena. (HS-ESS2-4)

Science and Engineering Practices

Planning and Carrying Out Investigations

Planning and carrying out investigations in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to include investigations that provide evidence for and test conceptual, mathematical, physical, and empirical models. Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time), and refine the design accordingly. (HS-ESS2-5)

Science and Engineering Practices

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

Analyzing data in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to introducing more detailed statistical analysis, the comparison of data sets for consistency, and the use of models to generate and analyze data. Analyze data using tools, technologies, and/or models (e.g., computational, mathematical) in order to make valid and reliable scientific claims or determine an optimal design solution. (HS-ESS2-2)

Science and Engineering Practices

Engaging in Argument from Evidence

Engaging in argument from evidence in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using appropriate and sufficient evidence and scientific reasoning to defend and critique claims and explanations about the natural and designed world(s). Arguments may also come from current scientific or historical episodes in science. Construct an oral and written argument or counterarguments based on data and evidence. (HS-ESS2-7)

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect

Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects. (HS-ESS2-4)

Crosscutting Concepts

Energy and Matter

The total amount of energy and matter in closed systems is conserved. (HS-ESS2-6)

Crosscutting Concepts

Energy and Matter

Energy drives the cycling of matter within and between systems. (HS-ESS2-3)

Crosscutting Concepts

Structure and Function

The functions and properties of natural and designed objects and systems can be inferred from their overall structure, the way their components are shaped and used, and the molecular substructures of its various materials. (HS-ESS2-5)

Crosscutting Concepts

Stability and Change

Much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable. (HS-ESS2-7)

Crosscutting Concepts

Stability and Change

Feedback (negative or positive) can stabilize or destabilize a system. (HS-ESS2-2)

Crosscutting Concepts

Stability and Change

Change and rates of change can be quantified and modeled over very short or very long periods of time. Some system changes are irreversible. (HS-ESS2-1)