

# Unit 06: Land Resources

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s): **Environmental Science**  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **4 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Standards

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### ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems(pp. 179-182)

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

### ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions(pp. 182-183)

- 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)

### ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes(pp. 184-186)

- 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)

### ESS2.D: Weather and Climate(pp. 186-189)

- 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)
- Gradual atmospheric changes were due to plants and other organisms that captured carbon dioxide and released oxygen. (HS-ESS2-6),(HS-ESS2-7)
- Changes in the atmosphere due to human activity have increased carbon dioxide concentrations and thus affect climate. (HS-ESS2-6)

## ESS2.E Biogeology (189-190)

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

SCI.9-12.HS-ESS1-5	Evaluate evidence of the past and current movements of continental and oceanic crust and the theory of plate tectonics to explain the ages of crustal rocks.
SCI.9-12.HS-ESS1-6	Apply scientific reasoning and evidence from ancient Earth materials, meteorites, and other planetary surfaces to construct an account of Earth's formation and early history.
SCI.9-12.HS-ESS2-1	Develop a model to illustrate how Earth's internal and surface processes operate at different spatial and temporal scales to form continental and ocean-floor features.
SCI.9-12.HS-ESS2-5	Plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of water and its effects on Earth materials and surface processes.
SCI.9-12.HS-ESS3-6	Use a computational representation to illustrate the relationships among Earth systems and how those relationships are being modified due to human activity.
SCI.9-12.HS-ESS2-3	Develop a model based on evidence of Earth's interior to describe the cycling of matter by thermal convection.
SCI.9-12.HS-ESS3-4	Evaluate or refine a technological solution that reduces impacts of human activities on natural systems.
SCI.9-12.HS-LS2-7	Design, evaluate, and refine a solution for reducing the impacts of human activities on the environment and biodiversity.

## **Essential Questions**

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Describe the economic and environmental importance of planning the development and of land resources for human activities.

## **Content / Skills**

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- Describe the changes that have occurred to cities and how they have affected the regional landscape.
- Why have suburban areas become popular places to live?
- Explain how texture and structure influence soil atmosphere and soil water.
- Describe the various layers in a soil profile.
- Describe the human impact on soil and the various methods humans use to protect the resource.
- Explain why chemical fertilizers are used.
- Explain why modern agriculture makes extensive use of pesticides.
- Define organic farming.

