

# Earth Science/General Science Vocabulary

## 1365 Vocabulary Words

### SECTION 1

#### Fields of Science

astronautics	mineralogist
astronomy	mineralogy
biology	oceanographer
chemist	paleontologists
chemistry	petrologist
geologist	petrology
geology	physics
meteorologist	seismologist
meteorology	technology

#### Metric System

absolute zero	kilo
arc	kilogram
area	kilometer
calorie	L
Celsius	length
centi	liter
Centigrade	mass
centimeter	matter
classification	measurement
concentration	meter
deci	metric system
deka	milli
density	milliliter
English System	ml

Fahrenheit  
grams  
gravity  
hecto  
ice  
instrument

specific gravity  
square centimeters  
time  
volume  
weight

## Scientific Processes

conclusion  
control  
data  
data collecting  
data table  
drawing conclusions  
error  
hypothesis

inference  
observation  
percent error  
problem solving  
scientific method  
senses  
theory  
variable

## Chemistry

acids  
atom  
atomic mass  
atomic number  
base  
boiling point  
chemical bonding  
chemical change  
chemical compound  
chemical properties  
compound  
condensation point  
condensation surface

metal  
mixture  
molecules  
negative ions  
neutron  
nonmetal  
nucleus  
organic  
phase  
phase change  
physical change  
physical properties  
physical state

ductility  
electron  
electron cloud  
element  
energy level  
freezing point  
gas  
inorganic  
malleability  
melting point

plasma  
positive ions  
proton  
solid  
solidification  
soluble  
solution  
temperate climate  
temperature

## Weather

absolute humidity  
air pressure  
ammonia  
anemometer  
aneroid barometer  
atmosphere  
atmospheric pressure  
atmospheric variables  
barograph  
barometer  
barometric pressure  
bimetallic thermometer  
blizzard  
carbon dioxide  
Celsius  
Centigrade  
circumpolar whirl  
climate  
cloud  
cloud seeding  
cold front

lightning  
liquid thermometer  
low pressure  
magnetosphere  
maritime polar  
maritime tropical  
mercury barometer  
mesopause  
mesosphere  
millibar  
mountains  
nitrogen  
occluded front  
oxygen  
ozone layer  
ozonosphere  
polar winds  
polar zone  
precipitation  
pressure  
pressure gradient

condensation  
condensation nuclei  
condense  
conduction  
continental polar  
continental tropical  
convection  
convection current  
corillera  
cyclones  
desert climate  
dew  
dew point  
divergence zone  
doldrums  
dry-bulb thermometer  
exosphere  
eye of cyclones  
fog  
front  
frost  
greenhouse effect  
Hadley cell  
hail  
hailstorms  
high pressure  
horse latitudes  
humidity  
hurricane  
hygrometer  
inches of mercury  
interior plane  
ionosphere  
isobars  
isoline

prevailing westerlies  
radiation  
rain  
relative humidity  
Sahara Desert  
saturated  
sea breeze  
seasons  
sleet  
sling psychrometer  
snow  
south polar zone  
south temperate zone  
stationary front  
stratopause  
stratopause  
stratosphere  
temperate zones  
thawing  
thermosphere  
thunder  
tornadoes  
trade winds  
Tropic of Cancer  
Tropic of Capricorn  
tropical zone  
tropics  
tropopause  
troposphere  
Van Allen radiation belt  
warm front  
water vapor  
weather map  
weather station  
weather vane

isotherms  
land breeze  
latitude wind cells  
leeward

westerlies  
wet-bulb thermometer  
wind  
wind vane

## Science Materials

balance  
graduated cylinder  
infrared telescope  
microscope  
multiple mirror telescope  
newton

radio telescope  
reflecting telescope  
refracting telescope  
telescope  
X-ray telescope

## Measuring the Earth

arctic circle  
axis  
conic projection  
contour interval  
contour line  
contour map  
core  
crust  
desert  
diameter  
elevation  
equator  
Eratosthenes  
globe  
gnomonic projection  
gradient  
gravimeter

longitude  
magnetic declination  
magnitude  
map projections  
map scale  
Mercator  
meridian  
models  
North Pole  
North Star  
oblate spheroid  
parallels  
perigee  
pneumbra  
Polaris  
prime meridian  
profile

great circle route  
horizontal axis  
hydrosphere  
imaging radar  
international date line  
isobar  
isoline  
isosurface  
isotherm  
Landsat  
latitude  
lithosphere

remote sensing  
scale  
sea level  
side looking radar  
slope  
South Pole  
time zone  
topographic map  
topography  
vector field  
vertical axis

### Celestial & Terrestrial Observation

altitude  
annual motion  
apogee  
apparent diameter  
apparent motion  
apparent size of the sun  
apparent solar day  
apparent solar time  
autumnal equinox  
azimuth  
binary stars  
celestial equator  
celestial navigation  
celestial north pole  
celestial objects  
celestial poles  
daily motion  
declination right ascension  
earth's revolution

meridian  
noon  
North Star  
parallax  
Pole Star  
prime meridian  
revolution  
rotation  
sideral day  
sideral year  
solar day  
solar time  
solar year  
solstice  
spring equinox  
standard time  
summer solstice  
sun time  
time

ecliptic plane  
equator  
equinox  
horizon  
hour circle  
international date line  
latitude  
mean solar day

time meridian  
Van Allen belt  
vernal equinox  
winter solstice  
year  
yearly motion  
zenith

## Moon

1st quarter  
3rd quarter  
annular eclipse  
celestial north pole  
crescent moon  
eclipse  
full moon  
lunar eclipse  
lunar rocks  
maria  
new crescent moon  
new gibbous

new moon  
old crescent  
old gibbous moon  
penumbra  
phases  
precession  
rille  
solar eclipse  
tidal range  
total eclipse  
umbra

## SECTION 2

### Sun - Stars

apparent magnitude  
asteroids  
astronomical unit  
binary stars

nebulae  
neutron star  
nuclear fusion  
optical telescope

black hole  
Cepheid variable  
chromosphere  
comets  
constellation  
continuous spectrum  
Copernican model  
Coriolis effect  
corona  
dark line spectra  
doppler effect  
ellipse  
energy transformation  
epicycles  
focus  
foucault pendulum  
gaseous core  
geocentric model  
giant star  
heliocentric model  
inertia  
law of gravitation  
law of inertia  
light year  
meteor  
meteorite  
meteroroids  
multiple mirror telescope

orbit  
parallax  
period of revolution  
photosphere  
prominences  
protoplanet  
protostars  
Ptolemy model  
pulsar  
quasars  
radio astronomy  
radio telescope  
red giants  
reflecting telescope  
refracting telescope  
revolution  
rotation  
solar eclipse  
solar flares  
solar winds  
star  
star clusters  
sunspots  
supergiants  
supernova  
terrestrial  
variable star  
white dwarf

## Stars - Galaxies

absolute magnitude  
apparent magnitude  
astronomy

nebulae  
neutron star  
nova

big bang theory  
binary stars  
black hole  
blue shift  
Cepheid variable  
constellation  
Doppler effect  
eclipsing stars  
electromagnetic spectrum  
elliptical galaxy  
elliptical orbit  
galaxy  
globular clusters  
gravity field  
irregular galaxy  
Milky Way

prism  
protostar  
pulsars  
quasars  
radio astronomy  
red shift  
reflecting telescope  
refracting telescope  
retrograde motion  
retrograde rotation  
spectroscope  
spectrum  
spiral galaxy  
supernova  
theory of relativity

### Solar System - Planets

Earth  
Jupiter  
Mars  
Mercury  
Neptune

Pluto  
Saturn  
Sun  
Uranus  
Venus

### Solar System

aphelion  
asteroids  
aurora  
aurora borealis  
chromosphere  
comets

magnetic storms  
meteorite craters  
meteorites  
meteors  
meteroids  
Oort cloud

deferent  
elliptical orbits  
epicycles  
equal area law  
geocentric system  
great red spots  
harmonic law  
heliocentric system  
inner planets  
Kepler's third law

orbits  
outer planets  
perihelion  
photosphere  
rills  
solar prominences  
solar system  
solar winds  
sunspots

### Space Explorations

apogee  
communication satellite  
geosynchronous orbit  
navigation satellites  
Newton's Third Law  
perigee

rockets  
satellite  
space shuttle  
space station  
stationary orbit  
weather satellite

### Energy Transfer in Earth Processes

absolute zero  
absorbed  
absorption  
calorie  
closed system  
condensation  
condensation surface  
conduction  
conservation of energy  
convection  
convection cell

heat of condensation  
heat sinks  
heat source  
kinetic energy  
latent heat  
latent heat of fusion  
latent of vaporization  
melting  
open system  
period  
potential energy

convection current	radiation
crest	reflected
crystallization	refraction
crystal	scattered
crystal structure	specific heat
crystalline solid	swash
electrical energy	temperature
electromagnetic energy	thermal energy
electromagnetic radiation	transmitted
electromagnetic spectrum	transverse wave
evaporation	trough
freezing	tsunami
friction	wave crest
gravitational potential energy	wave peak
heat	wavelength
heat energy	

## Insolation and the Earth's Surface

absorption	northern hemisphere
aerosols	radiation
angle of insolation	radiative balance
Celsius	radioactive decay
conduction	radioactivity
convection	reflection
duration of insolation	reradiation
Fahrenheit	scattering
greenhouse effect	southern hemisphere
half life	square centimeter
hemisphere	square meter
insolation	temperature
intensity	temperature inversions
ionosphere	ultraviolet rays
latitude	x-rays

## Precipitation

barometric pressure  
circumpolar whirl  
cloud  
cloud seeding  
condensation nuclei  
dew  
dew point  
frost  
hail

high pressure  
isobars  
isoline  
low pressure  
meteorologist  
precipitation  
sleet  
supercooled water  
weather

## Cloud Types

advection fog  
altostratus  
cirrocumulus  
cirrus clouds  
cloud

cumulonimbus  
cumulus  
fogs  
radiation fog  
stratus

## Types Air Masses

air mass  
air pressure  
anticyclone  
atmospheric transparency  
blizzard  
cold front  
continental polar  
continental tropical  
cyclone

humidity  
jet stream  
low  
maritime polar  
maritime tropical  
occluded front  
pressure gradient  
rainsonde  
source region

dew-point temperature  
fronts  
gradient  
high

stationary front  
warm front  
waterspout  
wind

### Atmospheric Energy Changes

adiabatic change  
adiabatic cooling  
adiabatic lapse rate  
adiabatic temperature change  
aerosols  
chinooks  
combustion  
condensation  
condensation nuclei  
convection  
convergence zone  
convection cells  
cyclone  
dew point  
dry adiabatic  
dynamic equilibrium  
evaporation  
hurricanes  
infrared  
planetary wind  
planetary wind belt

precipitation  
relative humidity  
reradiated  
saturation  
saturation vapor pressure  
solar radiation  
sublimation  
thunderstorm  
tornadoes  
transparency  
transpiration  
tropical cyclone  
tropical storm  
twister  
typhoon  
vapor pressure  
vortex  
water vapor  
waterspout  
wet adiabatic

### SECTION 3

#### Moisture and Energy Budgets

adhesion

orographic effect

aeration  
aquifer  
arid climate  
artesian well  
capillary water  
cirque  
climate  
cohesion  
continental climate  
crevasse  
deficit  
elevation  
evaporate  
geysers  
ground water  
hydrologic cycle  
impermeable  
leeward side  
marine climate  
midlatitude climate  
ocean current

packing  
particle shape  
permafrost  
permeability  
permeable  
planetary wind belts  
polar climate  
pollution  
porosity  
precipitation  
recharge  
run off  
soil storage  
subsurface water  
tropical climate  
water cycle  
water pollution  
water table  
windward side  
zone of aeration  
zone of saturation

### Water Availability Factors

aquifer  
geysers  
glaciers  
ground water  
impermeable  
mountain  
permafrost  
permeability

permeability rate  
permeable  
stream  
stream discharge  
subsurface water  
thermal pollution  
water pollution  
windward side

## Erosional Process - Weathering

abrasion	hydrosphere
angle of repose	ice wedging
base level	joint
bed load	landslide
bedrock	leaching
carbon dioxide cycle	levees
carbonation	lichens
carbonic acid	lithosphere
cave	mature river
cavern	meander
chemical weathering	mosses
clay	mudflow
coastal plain	organic activity
colloids	oxbow lakes
continental glaciers	oxidation
coral atoll	pedalfers
coral reefs	pedocals
corals	physical weathering
creep	plant action
crystal lattice	plunge pools
deflation	potholes
deltas	residual sediments
density currents	river valley
disintegration	rock flour
divide	root-pry
drainage basin	rust
dunes	sandbar
effect of discharge	slumping
erosion by ice	soil
erosion by waves	soil profile
erosion by winds	stream piracy
exfoliation	transported sediments
flood plain	tropical soil

forest soil  
frost action  
glacial milk  
glaciers  
gully  
headward erosion  
hillside creep  
hydrolysis

valley glaciers  
velocity  
ventifact  
water gap  
weathering  
windblown sand  
youthful stream

## Erosion

abrasion  
aquifer  
artesian well  
bed load  
carbon dioxide cycle  
carbonation  
cave  
cave deposits  
cavern  
coastal plain  
creep  
decomposition  
deflation  
delta  
deposition  
drainage basins  
drainage system  
dunes  
erosion  
evaporate  
flood plain  
geysers  
gravity

mass wasting  
mature river  
meander  
mudflow  
natural bridges  
oxbow lake  
oxidation  
parabolic  
permeable  
playa  
ripple marks  
rivers  
runoff  
sand dunes  
sinkholes  
slumping  
soft water  
solute  
solution  
solvent  
stalactite  
stalagmite  
talus

groundwater  
hard water  
impermeable  
landslide  
levee  
loess

tributaries  
tributary  
water table  
wind  
wind erosion

## Rock Formation

banding  
cementation  
chemical sedimentary rocks  
compaction  
complex mountains  
contact metamorphism  
contact metamorphism zone  
distorted metamorphic rock  
extrusive igneous rocks  
foliation  
fossil fuels  
igneous rocks  
intrusive igneous rocks  
lignite  
magma  
metamorphic rocks

nonfoliated  
ore mineral  
organic sedimentary rock  
polymineralic rocks  
porphyry  
recrystallization  
regional metamorphism  
regolith  
rock cycle  
rock salt  
sedimentary rocks  
soft coal  
thermal metamorphism  
vein  
volcanic rock  
volcano

## Deposition Process

accretion  
alluvial fan  
braided stream  
buttes  
clay

graded beds  
horizontal sorting  
impermeable  
indirect glacial deposits  
joints

colloids  
compaction  
compression  
cross-bedded  
deposition  
direct glacial deposits  
erosional deposition system  
flocculation  
fluvio-glacial deposits

organic deposits  
pore spaces  
precipitates  
precipitation  
saturated  
sediments  
sorting  
turbidity current  
vertical sorting

### Dynamic Crust

active continental margins  
bench mark  
braided stream  
caldera  
cinder cone  
coastal plain  
composite volcano  
constructive landform  
countercurrents  
craters  
density currents  
dikes  
dome  
earthquake zones  
fault  
fault block mountains  
faulting  
fossils  
laccolith  
lava  
lava plateau  
manganese nodules

oceanic crust  
oozes  
passive continental margins  
phytoplankton  
plains  
plateau  
ring of fire  
rock magnetism  
salinity  
shield volcanoes  
sill  
stock  
thermocline  
tilted sedimentary beds rocks  
trench  
turbidity currents  
upwelling  
vent  
viscous  
volcanic ash  
volcanic bomb  
volcanic dust

mid-ocean ridges  
ocean floor spreading  
ocean trenches

volcanic mountains  
volcano

## Soils

arctic soil  
desert soil  
forest soil  
grassland soil  
humus  
immature soil  
mature soil  
mountain soil

prairie soils  
residual soil  
soil profile  
subsoil  
topsoil  
transported soil  
tropical soil  
tundra soil

## SECTION 4

### Rock Identification

cleavage  
color  
conchoidal fracture  
crystal shape  
fracture

hardness  
luster  
Mohs scale  
streak  
texture

### Rock Types

amphibole  
andesite  
basalt  
batholith

halite  
igneous rocks  
intrusions  
intrusive rock

biotite  
bituminous coal  
bressia  
chalk  
clastic  
coal  
feldspar  
flint  
foliation  
gems  
geodes

lava  
metamorphic  
mica  
oxides  
pumice  
pyrite  
rock salt  
sandstone  
sedimentary  
uranium 238

## Crystals

axes of a crystal  
chain silicates  
cleavage  
cleavage planes  
compression  
conchoidal fracture  
crystallization  
crystal  
crystal faces

cubic page  
hexagonal  
isolated tetrahedra  
monoclinic  
orthorhombic  
sheets silicate  
tetragonal  
triclinic

## Restless water

barrier reef  
bars  
beaches  
caves  
deep ocean currents  
ground water  
high tide

rip currents  
sand bar  
sea cliffs  
spring tide  
surface currents  
surface runoff  
tides

low tide  
neap tide  
pore space  
reservoirs

tsunamis  
turbidity currents  
upwellings  
watershed

## Earthquakes

amplitude  
anticlines  
axis of fold  
bedding phase  
block mountain  
body wave  
brittle  
buoyancy  
compressional wave  
continental crust  
convergence zone  
core  
crust  
deep focus  
deformation  
earthquake  
earthquake waves  
epicenter  
fault  
fault block mountain  
focal depth  
focus  
fracture  
igneous rock  
inner core  
joint system

longitudinal wave  
mantle  
Mercalli scale  
Moho  
Mohorovicic discontinuity  
normal fault  
ocean crust  
primary  
Primary wave  
primary waves  
reverse fault  
Richter magnitude scale  
Richter scale  
rift valley  
secondary waves  
seismic waves  
seismograph  
shadow zone  
shallow focus  
shear waves  
strike slip fault  
surface wave  
syncline  
tension  
thrust fault

## Plate Tectonics

asthenosphere	diverging boundaries
Basalt-Andesite hypothesis	island arc
constructive boundaries	lithosphere
constructive landform	lithospheric plates
continental accretion	mid-ocean ridge
continental drift	ocean floor spreading
continental growth	ocean ridge
continental rises	oceanic island
continental shelf	rift valley
continental shield	seafloor spreading
continental slope	subduction zone
convection cell	transform boundaries
convergence zone	transform fault
divergence	trenches

## Geologic History

absolute age	mutations
amber	paleontologists
carbonization	petrified
correlation	radioactive dating
extinction	radioactive decay
fossil age	radioactive element
fossils	radiometric
geologic timetable	rate of sedimentation
half-life	superposition
index fossil	tar pits
intrusion	trace fossils
lava flow	unconformity
mold	

## Geologic Eras

ammonites  
amphibians  
angiosperms  
brachiopods  
Cenozoic Era  
conifers  
cyads  
dinosaurs  
epochs  
era  
gymnosperms

interglacial ages  
invertebrate  
mammal  
marsupial  
Mesozoic Era  
Paleozoic Era  
Precambrian Era  
reptiles  
trilobites  
vertebrates

## Landscape Development

abrading  
cirque  
continental glacier  
drift  
drumlins  
eskers  
glacial lakes

horns  
icebergs  
kettle lakes  
moraine  
till  
valley glacier

## Energy Resources

anthracite coal  
bituminous coal  
coal  
coal gasification  
crude oil  
fission

methane  
natural gas  
nuclear energy  
nuclear fission  
peat  
petroleum

fossil fuels  
fusion  
gasohol  
geothermal power  
hydrocarbons  
lignite coal

solar cell  
solar energy  
tidal power  
water power  
wind power

## Environment

acid rain  
air pollution  
chlorofluorocarbon  
contour farming  
crop rotation  
deforestation  
desalination  
EPA  
erosion  
ganguue  
hazardous waste  
hydrocarbons  
hydroelectric energy  
irrigation  
methane  
natural resources  
noise pollution  
nonrenewable resources

oil pollution  
ozone  
ozone layer  
photochemical smog  
purification  
recycling natural resources  
renewable resources  
smog  
strip or open mining  
sulfuric acid  
sulfurous smog  
temperature inversion  
thermal pollution  
transpiration  
tropical forest  
water pollution  
water resources  
windbreak

## Waves

crest  
trough  
wave base

wave period  
wavelength  
waves

wave height  
wave peak

wind waves

## Oceans

abyssal plain  
abyssal zone  
aquaculture  
barrier reef  
bathyal zone  
bathyscaph  
bathysphere  
benthos  
buoyancy  
continental margin  
continental rise  
continental shelf  
continental slope  
coral atolls  
coral reefs  
deep zone  
diatoms  
echo sounder  
evaporation  
guyots  
hydrosphere  
intertidal zone  
lagoon  
marianas trench

midocean ridge  
nekton  
nertic zone  
ocean plants  
oceanographer  
ooze  
plankton  
rift zone  
salinity  
salt marsh  
sea level  
seamounts  
seismographic surveys  
shoreline  
sonar  
speed of sound in water  
submarine canyons  
surface zone  
thermocline  
trenches  
turbidity  
water cycle  
zooplankton