

Addison-Wesley **Earth Science – Terms and Definitions**

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Chapter 1

Studying the Earth

Section 1

The Earth - Earth Sciences -The Scientific Method

astronomy	The science concerned with stars and planets.
atmosphere	The blanket of air, dust, water droplets, ice particles, etc. that completely covers the earth's lithosphere and hydrosphere.
biosphere	The region where all life is found.
chemical property	A feature of the way one substance reacts with another substance.
classifying	Grouping similar objects or events.
data	A collection of observations.
direct observation	Information received by one or more of the senses.
geology	The science concerned with the earth's lithosphere.
hydrology	The science concerned with the earth's entire hydrosphere.
hydrosphere	The entire liquid or water part of the earth.
hypothesis	Possible answer to a problem, based on observations.
indirect observation	An observation that requires the use of an instrument.
inference	An interpretation of observations.
instrument	Used to extend our senses when making observations.
lithosphere	The solid part of the earth. The rigid outer shell of the earth, 70 to 125 or more kilometers thick.
(Pl)	
meteorology	The science concerned with the earth's atmosphere.
oceanography	The science concerned with the oceans.
petrology	The part of geology that specializes in rocks.
physical property	A feature of a substance in itself.
theory	Based on strong evidence that several generally accepted hypotheses are correct. An explanation for observed phenomena that has a high possibility of being true. (Plummer)