

Vocabulary List – Earth Science I

Vocabulary Term	Definition
Geology	The study of the solid Earth.
Oceanography	The study of the Earth's oceans.
Meteorology	The study of the changes in the Earth's atmosphere.
Astronomy	The study of all object outside of the Earth's atmosphere. Astronomy includes the study of space and the origin and future of the universe.
Atmosphere	The shell of gases that surround the planet. The atmosphere is held on by gravity.
Hydrosphere	The water layer of the Earth. Includes the ocean, lakes, stream, groundwater, and glacial ice.
Lithosphere	The solid rocky outer layer of the earth. Made of the crust and rigid mantle. The lithosphere is broken into pieces called Tectonic plates.
Latitude	The angular distance North or South of the Equator. Latitude lines are called parallels and run East to West on a map. The highest latitude is 90° which is the poles.
Longitude	The angular distance East or West of the Prime Meridian. Longitude lines are called meridians and run North to South from pole to pole. The highest longitude is 180° which is opposite the prime meridian.
Equator	The reference line (0°) for latitude. Separates the Earth into Northern and Southern hemispheres. Changing Latitude will change average temperature and climate.
Prime Meridian	The reference line (0°) for longitude. Separates the Earth into Eastern and Western hemispheres. Changing Longitude will change the time zone of the location.
Tropic of Cancer	23.5° North Latitude. Location on the planet where the sun shines directly on the Summer Solstice (June 21 st)

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Tropic of Capricorn	23.5° South Latitude. Location on the planet where the sun shines directly on the Winter Solstice (December 21 st)
Arctic Circle	66.5° North Latitude. All locations above the Arctic circle will have 24 hours of daylight on 6/21 and 24 hours of darkness on 12/21.
Antarctic Circle	66.5° South Latitude. All locations below the Antarctic circle will have 24 hours of daylight on 12/21 and 24 hours of darkness on 6/21.