

Greetings, Family!

Have you ever looked around and wondered why lakes exist in certain places and not in others? Why Earth's surface can be flat for long stretches until suddenly a mountain range rises up out of nowhere? In our next unit, "Earth Systems," our class will learn about the major features of Earth's surface and how this surface changes over time. Students will also learn about the structure of Earth, and what causes natural events like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Finally, we will discuss Earth's resources: what they are and how we can use them most wisely.

You can make science come alive for your student by pointing out and talking about mountains, lakes, and landforms as you pass by them in a car, bus, train, or plane. You can also look for events like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in the news, and discuss their causes and effects. While reading newspapers and watching television, also make sure to look for stories about Earth's natural resources: how and where we search for them, and how this search affects us politically and environmentally.

For this unit, we will also be doing some hands-on activities about Earth and its resources, using the materials listed below. Can you donate any of these items? If so, we need to receive your donated materials by _____.

- modeling clay
- shallow square pans
- dental floss
- paper cups
- marbles
- aluminum foil
- plastic knives
- shoeboxes
- waxed paper

Finally, we could use your help in the classroom. Do you or other family members have any particular interest or special experience with this topic? Would you be able to help with activities? If so, please fill out the form below and have your student return it to the class.

Thank you very much for your help!

Family Newsletter

Unit C, Earth Systems

Parent: _____ Student: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____