

MS-ESS2 Earth's Systems

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Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-ESS2-2. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how geoscience processes have changed Earth's surface at varying time and spatial scales. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how processes change Earth's surface at time and spatial scales that can be large (such as slow plate motions or the uplift of large mountain ranges) or small (such as rapid landslides or microscopic geochemical reactions), and how many geoscience processes (such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and meteor impacts) usually behave gradually but are punctuated by catastrophic events. Examples of geoscience processes include surface weathering and deposition by the movements of water, ice, and wind. Emphasis is on geoscience processes that shape local geographic features, where appropriate.]

MS-ESS2-3. Analyze and interpret data on the distribution of fossils and rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of the past plate motions. [Clarification Statement: Examples of data include similarities of rock and fossil types on different continents, the shapes of the continents (including continental shelves), and the locations of ocean structures (such as ridges, fracture zones, and trenches).] [Assessment Boundary: Paleomagnetic anomalies in oceanic and continental crust are not assessed.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

Science and Engineering Practices

Developing and Using Models

Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop and use a model to describe phenomena. (MS-ESS2-1), (MS-ESS2-6)
- Develop a model to describe unobservable mechanisms. (MS-ESS2-4)

Planning and Carrying Out Investigations

Planning and carrying out investigations in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include investigations that use multiple variables and provide evidence to support explanations or solutions.

- Collect data to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence to answer scientific questions or test design solutions under a range of conditions. (MS-ESS2-5)

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.

- Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for phenomena. (MS-ESS2-3)

Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.

- Construct a scientific explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from sources (including the students' own experiments) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe nature operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (MS-ESS2-2)

Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge is Open to Revision in Light of New Evidence

- Science findings are frequently revised and/or reinterpreted based on new evidence. (MS-ESS2-3)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS1.C: The History of Planet Earth

- Tectonic processes continually generate new ocean sea floor at ridges and destroy old sea floor at trenches. (HS.ESS1.C GBE) (secondary to MS-ESS2-3)

ESS2.A: Earth's Materials and Systems

- All Earth processes are the result of energy flowing and matter cycling within and among the planet's systems. This energy is derived from the sun and Earth's hot interior. The energy that flows and matter that cycles produce chemical and physical changes in Earth's materials and living organisms. (MS-ESS2-1)
- The planet's systems interact over scales that range from microscopic to global in size, and they operate over fractions of a second to billions of years. These interactions have shaped Earth's history and will determine its future. (MS-ESS2-2)

ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions

- Maps of ancient land and water patterns, based on investigations of rocks and fossils, make clear how Earth's plates have moved great distances, collided, and spread apart. (MS-ESS2-3)

ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes

- Water continually cycles among land, ocean, and atmosphere via transpiration, evaporation, condensation and crystallization, and precipitation, as well as downhill flows on land. (MS-ESS2-4)
- The complex patterns of the changes and the movement of water in the atmosphere, determined by winds, landforms, and ocean temperatures and currents, are major determinants of local weather patterns. (MS-ESS2-5)
- Global movements of water and its changes in form are propelled by sunlight and gravity. (MS-ESS2-4)
- Variations in density due to variations in temperature and salinity drive a global pattern of interconnected ocean currents. (MS-ESS2-6)
- Water's movements—both on the land and underground—cause weathering and erosion, which change the land's surface features and create underground formations. (MS-ESS2-2)

ESS2.D: Weather and Climate

- Weather and climate are influenced by interactions involving sunlight, the ocean, the atmosphere, ice, landforms, and living things. These interactions vary with latitude, altitude, and local and regional geography, all of which can affect oceanic and atmospheric flow patterns. (MS-ESS2-6)
- Because these patterns are so complex, weather can only be predicted probabilistically. (MS-ESS2-5)
- The ocean exerts a major influence on weather and climate by absorbing energy from the sun, releasing it over time, and globally redistributing it through ocean currents. (MS-ESS2-6)

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

- Patterns in rates of change and other numerical relationships can provide information about natural systems. (MS-ESS2-3)

Cause and Effect

- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems. (MS-ESS2-5)

Scale Proportion and Quantity

- Time, space, and energy phenomena can be observed at various scales using models to study systems that are too large or too small. (MS-ESS2-2)

Systems and System Models

- Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions—such as inputs, processes and outputs—and energy, matter, and information flows within systems. (MS-ESS2-6)

Energy and Matter

- Within a natural or designed system, the transfer of energy drives the motion and/or cycling of matter. (MS-ESS2-4)

Stability and Change

- Explanations of stability and change in natural or designed systems can be constructed by examining the changes over time and processes at different scales, including the atomic scale. (MS-ESS2-1)

Connections to other DCIs in this grade-band: **MS.PS1.A** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-4),(MS-ESS2-5); **MS.PS1.B** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-2); **MS.PS2.A** (MS-ESS2-5),(MS-ESS2-6); **MS.PS2.B** (MS-ESS2-4); **MS.PS3.A** (MS-ESS2-4),(MS-ESS2-5); **MS.PS3.B** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-5),(MS-ESS2-6); **MS.PS3.D** (MS-ESS2-4); **MS.PS4.B** (MS-ESS2-6); **MS.LS2.B** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-2); **MS.LS2.C** (MS-ESS2-1); **MS.LS4.A** (MS-ESS2-3); **MS.ESS1.B** (MS-ESS2-1); **MS.ESS3.C** (MS-ESS2-1)

Articulation of DCIs across grade-bands: **3.PS2.A** (MS-ESS2-4),(MS-ESS2-6); **3.LS4.A** (MS-ESS2-3); **3.ESS2.D** (MS-ESS2-5),(MS-ESS2-6); **3.ESS3.B** (MS-ESS2-3); **4.PS3.B** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-4); **4.ESS1.C** (MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-3); **4.ESS2.A** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-2); **4.ESS2.B** (MS-ESS2-3); **4.ESS2.E** (MS-ESS2-2); **4.ESS3.B** (MS-ESS2-3); **5.PS2.B** (MS-ESS2-4); **5.ESS2.A** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-5),(MS-ESS2-6); **5.ESS2.C** (MS-ESS2-4); **HS.PS1.B** (MS-ESS2-1); **HS.PS2.B** (MS-ESS2-4),(MS-ESS2-6); **HS.PS3.B** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-4),(MS-ESS2-6); **HS.PS3.D** (MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-6); **HS.PS4.B** (MS-ESS2-4); **HS.LS1.C** (MS-ESS2-1); **HS.LS2.B** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-2); **HS.LS4.A** (MS-ESS2-3); **HS.LS4.C** (MS-ESS2-3); **HS.ESS1.B** (MS-ESS2-6); **HS.ESS1.C** (MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-3); **HS.ESS2.A** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-3),(MS-ESS2-4),(MS-ESS2-6); **HS.ESS2.B** (MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-3); **HS.ESS2.C** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-4),(MS-ESS2-5); **HS.ESS2.D** (MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-4),(MS-ESS2-5),(MS-ESS2-6); **HS.ESS2.E** (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-2); **HS.ESS3.D** (MS-ESS2-2)

Common Core State Standards Connections:

ELA/Literacy –

- RST.6-8.1** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts. (MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-3),(MS-ESS2-5)
- RST.6-8.7** Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table). (MS-ESS2-3)
- RST.6-8.9** Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic. (MS-ESS2-3),(MS-ESS2-5)
- WHST.6-8.2** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. (MS-ESS2-2)
- WHST.6-8.8** Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources. (MS-ESS2-5)
- SL.8.5** Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points. (MS-ESS2-1),(MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-6)

Mathematics –

- MP.2** Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-3),(MS-ESS2-5)
- 6.NS.C.5** Understand that positive and negative numbers are used together to describe quantities having opposite directions or values (e.g., temperature above/below zero, elevation above/below sea level, credits/debits, positive/negative electric charge); use positive and negative numbers to represent quantities in real-world contexts, explaining the meaning of 0 in each situation. (MS-ESS2-5)
- 6.EE.B.6** Use variables to represent numbers and write expressions when solving a real-world or mathematical problem; understand that a variable can represent an unknown number, or, depending on the purpose at hand, any number in a specified set. (MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-3)
- 7.EE.B.4** Use variables to represent quantities in a real-world or mathematical problem, and construct simple equations and inequalities to solve problems by reasoning about the quantities. (MS-ESS2-2),(MS-ESS2-3)