

Earth's most magnificent and enormous landforms are all on the ocean floor. Volcanoes and earthquakes change the ocean floor, creating new landforms. Erosion on land also deposits minerals and animal matter on the ocean floor.



Key vocabulary

continental shelf

A shallow, gently sloping area of the sea floor near a coastline.

photosynthesis

A chemical process by which green plants make their food. Plants use energy from the sun to turn water and carbon dioxide into food, and they give off oxygen as a by-product.

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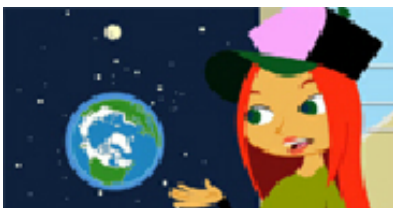
Earth's Oceans

Ever wonder why ocean water is salty? Believe it or not, most of that salt comes from rocks! Volcanic gases also add to the ocean's saltiness.



Lithosphere, Hydrosphere, & Atmosphere

Did you know that there is a name for all of the rock on earth? Sure is. Here are a few names that will come in handy.



Tides

The ocean does not always stay the same depth. Sometimes it is deep, and others times it becomes shallow. Do you know why?



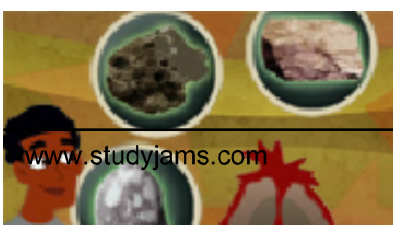
Waves & Currents

Waves and currents are different, but they work together. They give the ocean a lot of its motion.



The Water Cycle

You probably see rain or snow all the time, but do you know how water gets back up into the sky? The water cycle makes sure water gets where it needs to go.



The Rock Cycle

You might think rocks never change, but that is not true. Like water and nitrogen, rocks have their own cycle, and it is all about change