

THE LEARNING WEB

www.usgs.gov/education

USGS Unveils New Learning Web for Exploring the Natural World

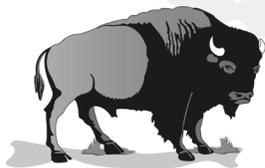
Click on the new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Learning Web at www.usgs.gov/education to try your hand at exploring the world of natural science. This site has a new look, with an enhanced search capability and special areas designed specifically for students in grades K-12, teachers, and “explorers” (everyone else).

- ☞ Students will find handy research tools, such as glossaries covering volcanoes, mapping, biology, and water; they can also do searches for assistance with school project ideas and for help with homework.
- ☞ Teachers and homeschoolers will find lesson plans with innovative activities regarding environmental concerns, fossils, caves, and much more.
- ☞ “Explorers” can look into their own areas of special interest, such as understanding natural hazards, investigating careers in science, and tracing history through maps.

The special search wizard will provide Web surfers with a simple interface to help narrow search results. A playtime wizard will provide engaging activities and three-dimensional pictures. The image wizard will bring to life a myriad of pictures to be searched. All visitors can become map wizards by creating their own maps.

The USGS serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

Punch out the bookmarks along the perforated lines.



USGS	USGS	USGS	USGS
<p>Earth's Geology:</p> <p>An earthquake is a sudden movement of the Earth, caused by the abrupt release of strain that has accumulated over a long time.</p> <p>For more information: Earthquakes for Kids and Grownups earthquake.usgs.gov/4kids/</p> <p>A volcano is a vent (opening) in the Earth's surface through which magma erupts; it is also the landform that is constructed by the eruptive material.</p> <p>For more information: USGS Volcano Hazards Program volcanoes.usgs.gov</p> <p>A mineral is a naturally occurring chemical compound with a definite crystal shape and composition. Minerals have specific physical and chemical properties by which they can be identified.</p> <p>For more information: Mineral Resources Program minerals.usgs.gov</p> <p>Coastal erosion occurs when the wave runup exceeds the elevation of dunes and results in permanent change to the landform. Land loss due to coastal storms causes serious problems for large populations located along shorelines.</p> <p>For more information: Mapping Coastal Change Hazards coastal.er.usgs.gov/hurricanes/mappingchange/</p> <p>Web Pages About Geology:</p> <p>USGS Geologic Information geology.usgs.gov</p> <p>USGS Geology in the Parks geology.wr.usgs.gov/docs/usgsnps/project/home.html</p> <p>Park Geology Tour of National Parks www2.nature.nps.gov/grd/tour/index.htm</p>	<p>Earth's Water:</p> <p>Water (H₂O) is a clear, colorless, odorless, and tasteless liquid. Water is essential for most plant and animal life and the most widely used of all solvents. Freezing point 0 °C (32 °F); boiling point 100 °C (212 °F); specific gravity (4 °C) 1.0000; weight per gallon (15 °C) 8.338 pounds (3.782 kg).</p> <p>Ground water (1) is water that flows or seeps downward and saturates soil or rock, which supplies springs and wells, and (2) water stored underground in rock crevices and in the pores of geologic materials that make up the Earth's crust.</p> <p>Surface water This is water on the Earth's surface, such as in a stream, river, lake, or reservoir. About 70% of all water used by people comes from surface water.</p> <p>Rain Rain and snow are key elements in the Earth's water cycle, which is vital to all life on Earth. Rainfall fills our lakes and rivers, recharges the underground aquifers, and provides drinks to plants and animals.</p> <p>Glacier A glacier is huge mass of ice, formed on land by the compaction and recrystallization of snow; it moves very slowly downslope or outward because of its own weight.</p> <p>Web Pages About Water:</p> <p>Water Science for Schools http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/</p> <p>Ground Water capp.water.usgs.gov/GIP/gw_gip/index.html</p> <p>Ground Water and Surface Water -- A Single Resource water.usgs.gov/pubs/circ/circ1139/</p> <p>Water Education Posters water.usgs.gov/outreach/OutReach.html</p>	<p>About Geography:</p> <p>Aerial Photographs and Satellite Images Photographs and other images of the Earth taken from the air and from space show patterns of distribution and change in the planet's landforms, vegetation, and resources. Aerial photographs and remotely sensed satellite images permit the accurate mapping of land cover and make landscape features understandable on regional, continental, and even global scales.</p> <p>For more information: mac.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/booklets/aerial/aerial.html</p> <p>Geographic Information Systems (GIS) A GIS is a computer system capable of assembling, storing, manipulating, and displaying geographically referenced information; that is, data identified according to location. For more information: www.usgs.gov/research/gis/title.html</p> <p>Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) The GNIS, developed by the USGS in cooperation with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN), contains information about almost 2 million physical and cultural geographic features in the United States. The GNIS is our Nation's official repository of domestic geographic names information. For more information: geonames.usgs.gov/fs12795.html</p> <p>Web Pages About Geography:</p> <p>National Mapping Information mapping.usgs.gov</p> <p>Digital Backyard mapping.usgs.gov/digitalbackyard</p> <p>National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive edc.usgs.gov/programs/NSLRSDA.html</p> <p>National Atlas www.nationalatlas.gov</p>	<p>About Biology:</p> <p>Invasive Species Invasive plants have rapidly choked out native plants on more than 100 million acres in the United States. An area twice the size of Delaware is lost to invasive plants each year. Invasion of exotic animals and microbes costs the Nation more than a hundred billion dollars annually in lost resources and productivity.</p> <p>For more information: Invasive Species www.usgs.gov/invasive_species</p> <p>Amphibian Declines and Deformities Many amphibian populations around the globe are in decline, while others suffer from alarming rates of physical deformities.</p> <p>For more information: North America Reporting Center for Amphibian Malformations www.npwrc.usgs.gov/narcam</p> <p>Biodiversity Biodiversity means the rich variety of life forms in nature. Many of the world's different plants and animals are under severe threat of extinction.</p> <p>For more information: Pachamama edcns16.cr.usgs.gov/geo2000/pacha</p> <p>West Nile Virus (WNV) The WNV affects wildlife populations and can cause human illness, and even death.</p> <p>For more information: National Wildlife Health Center www.nwhc.usgs.gov</p> <p>Web Pages About Wildlife:</p> <p>Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center www.npwrc.usgs.gov</p> <p>National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) www.nbii.gov</p>