

**Prerequisite courses:** none

**Grade level:** 9-12

## Course Description

This course builds on foundational concepts to explore the processes and systems that shape our planet and extend into the cosmos. Students will investigate the properties and cycles of rocks and minerals, weathering, erosion, and deposition that form Earth's surface features. The course covers atmospheric structure, weather patterns, and energy transfer within Earth's atmosphere, as well as renewable and nonrenewable resources and their impact on the environment. Students will also study Earth's position in space, phases of the moon, eclipses, and tides, along with an in-depth exploration of the solar system, stars, and galaxies.

This course is part of the Exceptional Students Course Suite, designed for high school students working three or more grade levels behind. The Exceptional Students courses are ideal for students whose IEPs allow them to earn credit for below-grade-level coursework.

## Course Objectives

Students will meet the following goals in this course.

- Explore the rock cycle by identifying and classifying rocks and minerals and understanding how they form and change over time.
- Investigate weathering, erosion, and deposition processes and their role in shaping Earth's surface and landforms.
- Understand the structure and composition of Earth's atmosphere, how weather patterns form, and how energy is transferred.
- Analyze renewable and nonrenewable resources, including their uses, management, and the human impact on Earth's resources.
- Explain the movements of Earth, the Moon, and the Sun, and how they cause phenomena such as phases, eclipses, and tides.
- Discover the components of the solar system, the characteristics of planets, and the structure of galaxies to understand Earth's place in the universe.

## Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from students as a traditional classroom course.

Students are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- interactive lessons, which include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks.
- assignments, in which they apply and extend learning in each lesson.
- assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams.

# Earth Science Essentials II

## Communication

Teachers will communicate with students regularly through discussions, emails, chats, and system announcements. Students will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, to collaborate, ask and answer questions in peer groups, and develop speaking and listening skills.

## Grading Policy

Students will be graded on work completed online and work submitted electronically to the teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	20%
Lesson quizzes	30%
Unit tests	30%
Cumulative exams	20%

## Scope and Sequence

When students log on to Imagine Edgenuity, they can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics under study. The units of study are listed below

Course Units
Unit 1: The Earth's Composition
Unit 2: Plate Tectonics
Unit 3: Earth's Waters
Unit 4: Weather and Climate
Unit 5: Earth's History