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Earth Science: Vocabulary

Prologue Part 1: Basics/density/water (Topic 1):

observation:

instrument:

inference:

classification:

mass:

volume:

density:

percent deviation:

phase (state):

direct proportion:

inverse proportion:

Prologue Part 2: Environmental change (Topic 2):

change:

rate of change:

frame of reference:

cyclic change:

non-cyclic event:

interface:

dynamic equilibrium:

pollution:

pollutant:

Topic 3: Earth stats/maps

oblate spheroid:

Polaris:

altitude:

lithosphere:

hydrosphere:

atmosphere:

parallels of latitude:

meridians of longitude:

Equator:

Prime meridian:

field:

field value:

isoline:

isotherm:

isobar:

field gradient:

elevation gradient:

contour map:

contour line:

contour interval:

index contour:

Topic 4: "The Old": sun, moon, stars: earth motion
celestial sphere:

apparent daily motion:

arc:

rotation:

revolution:

orbit:

apparent diameter:

phases (of the moon):

Foucault pendulum:

coriolis effect:

ellipse:

focus (of an ellipse):

eccentricity (of an ellipse):

perihelion:

aphelion:

orbital speed (velocity):

gravitational pull

period of revolution:

period of rotation:

year:

day:

geocentric model:

heliocentric model:

zenith:

horizon:

altitude:

azimuth:

Topic 4: "The New": The Universe..in the beginning...

universe:

Big Bang theory:

Doppler effect:

red shift:

galaxy:

Milky Way:

star:

asteroid:

moon:

planet:

comet:

meteor:

impact crater:

solar system:

terrestrial planets:

Jovian planets:

Topic 5: Energy

kinetic energy:

potential energy:

transverse wave:

wavelength:

electromagnetic spectrum:

visible spectrum:

refraction:

reflection:

absorption:

conduction:

convection:

radiation:

heat source:

heat sink:

heat:

calorie:

specific heat:

phase change:

melting:

freezing:

vaporization:

condensation:

Topic 6: Insolation

insolation:

intensity of insolation:

terrestrial radiation:

angle on insolation (incidence):

direct rays:

duration of insolation:

greenhouse effect:

greenhouse gases:

global warming:

daily temperature lag:

annual temperature lag:

Topic 7: Weather

weather:

climate:

atmospheric variables:

condensation:

adiabatic temperature change:

atmospheric(air) pressure:

evaporation:

jet stream:

pressure gradient:

planetary wind belts:

water vapor:

relative humidity:

saturated:

dew point temperature:

aerosols:

cloud:

condensation nuclei:

precipitation:

air mass:

source region:

low pressure center:

cyclone:

high pressure center:

anti-cyclone:

front:

cold front:

warm front:

hurricane:

station model:

barometer:

psychrometer:

thermometer:

Topic 8: underground water/ climate

water (hydrologic) cycle:

infiltration:

runoff:

zone of saturation:

zone of aeration:

water table:

groundwater:

porosity:

permeability:

capillary action:

capillary water:

stream discharge:

orographic effect:

Topics 9/10: Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition weathering:

sediment:

physical weathering:

chemical weathering:

frost action (ice wedging):

oxidation:

root wedging:

abrasion:

carbonation:

pressure unloading:

soil:

residual soil:

transported soil:

soil profile:

soil horizon:

erosion:

mass movement:

stream channel:

tributary:

stream bed:

meander:

delta:

alluvial fan:

glacier:

striations:

moraine:

drumlin:

finger lake:

sandbar:

ocean current:

deposition:

sorted sediments:

graded bedding:

horizontal sorting:

vertical sorting:

Earth Science Vocabulary 11: rocks and minerals

sedimentary rock:

monomineralic:

crystal:

crystalline:

cleavage:

fracture:

streak:

luster:

hardness:

atomic structure (arrangement of atoms):

evaporite/precipitate:

strata:

igneous rock:

polymineralic:

intrusive:

extrusive:

metamorphic rock:

rock cycle:

mineral:

transition zone:

contact metamorphism:

parent rock:

regional metamorphism:

foliated:

banding:

rock-forming mineral:

silicon-oxygen tetrahedron:

inorganic:

silicate:

clastic

bioclastic:

magma:

lava:

rock:

Topic 12: crustal motion / tectonics / earthquakes:

original horizontality:

folded strata:

tilted strata:

fault:

subsidence:

geosyncline:

continental drift:

mid-ocean ridge:

sea floor spreading:

magnetic reversal (reverse polarity):

plate tectonic theory:

divergent plate boundary:

convergent plate boundary:

transform plate boundary:

subduction:

earthquake:

focus (of EQ):

epicenter (of EQ):

seismic waves:

primary or P-wave (compressional):

secondary or S-wave (shear):

crust:

mantle:

outer core:

inner core:

oceanic crust:

mantle convection:

Moho (Mohorovicic discontinuity):

continental crust:

Topic 13: Geologic history

relative age dating:

absolute age dating:

principle of superposition:

intrusion:

extrusion:

joint:

vein:

correlation:

outcrop:

bedrock:

walking the outcrop:

fossil:

index fossil:

geologic time scale:

unconformity:

uniformitarianism:

radioactive decay:

parent material:

daughter product:

half-life:

radioactive dating:

carbon-14 dating (radio-carbon dating):