Earth Science Name

Introduction to Earth Science—The Lithosphere

The **lithosphere** is solid Earth. We can study the **minerals, rocks**, and **soils** that make up Earth's surface and interior layers. We can study the **earthquakes, volcanoes**, and **landslides** that move the solid Earth.

Earth's surface materials interact with the gases and liquids in the **atmosphere** and **hydrosphere** through processes called **weathering, erosion,** and **deposition**. We know now that living things of the **biosphere**—especially **bacteria**—can exist even deep inside the Earth, living on chemicals in cracks within rocks.

As an introduction to our study of the lithosphere in this Earth Science course, you will need a world map and Internet access. The US Geological Survey (USGS) is part of the Department of the Interior. Their website http://www.usgs.gov provides a wide range of information about **current events**, **archived events,** and educational resources.

Activity

Go to http://www.usgs.gov and view what's on the website. **Write a paragraph in the space below about two or three items of interest to you.**

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Open the "**Hazards**" section, then "Earthquake Hazards." Look over the information provided. Follow the links to learn about "Latest Earthquakes." Use the icons in the upper-right to find the locations of earthquakes in the US and the world. **Mark some of these on your world map**.

Go back to the "Hazards" homepage and open the "Volcano Hazards" section. After examining the map and information, **mark the locations of where volcanoes occur on your world map.**

Return to the "Hazards" page and read about other types of hazards. **Select two of these and write a paragraph about each in the space on the other side of this page.**

List the two most important/interesting things you learned in this activity.