

Chapter 1 Introduction to Earth Science

## Section 1.1 What Is Earth Science?

This section explains what Earth science is and what Earth scientists study.

### Reading Strategy

**Categorizing** As you read about the different branches of Earth science, fill in the column with the name of each branch and list some of the things that are studied. For more information on this Reading Strategy, see the **Reading and Study Skills** in the **Skills and Reference Handbook** at the end of your textbook.

geology	a.
b.	c.
d.	e.
f.	g.

### Overview of Earth Science

- Circle the letters of the topics studied in Earth science.

  - a. Earth's atmosphere
  - b. Earth's surface
  - c. Earth's neighbors in space
  - d. Earth's interior
- What are some of the subdivisions of Earth science? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
- What does the word *geology* mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
- Is the following sentence true or false? Geology is divided into two broad areas—physical geology and historical geology. \_\_\_\_\_
- What do physical geologists study? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
- Rocks and minerals form in response to Earth's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ processes.

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7. What do historical geologists study? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Circle the letter of each science that is integrated into oceanography.

- a. chemistry
- b. biology
- c. physics
- d. meteorology

9. What do oceanographers study? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. The study of the atmosphere and the processes that produce weather and climate is \_\_\_\_\_.

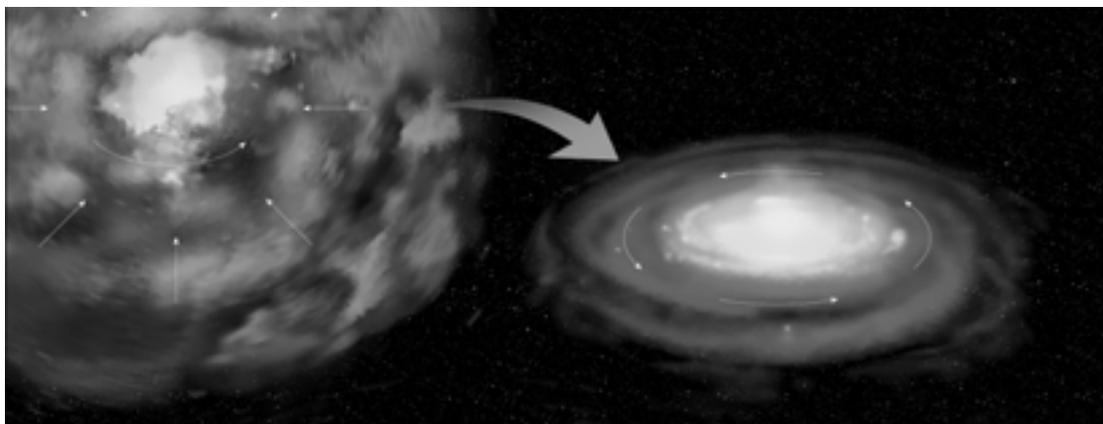
11. The science of \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of the universe.

### Formation of Earth

12. ☛ The \_\_\_\_\_ hypothesis suggests that the bodies of our solar system evolved from an enormous rotating cloud called the solar nebula.

13. Is the following sentence true or false? The solar nebula is made up of mostly carbon and iron. \_\_\_\_\_

14. Look at the diagram. Describe what is occurring in the first two stages of the formation of the solar system according to the nebular hypothesis.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_