

# Investigating the Earth

## Objectives

Students will:

- Brainstorm and display key ideas.
- Explain their knowledge of Earth's atmosphere, geosphere, biosphere, and hydrosphere.

## Overview

Brainstorm and create a Thinking Web that demonstrates students' knowledge of Earth's atmosphere, geosphere, biosphere, and hydrosphere. This provides an opening exercise to introduce the study of the Earth to students and to assess prior knowledge.

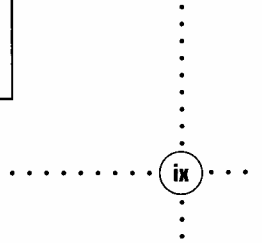
## Key Question

How do the four major components of the Earth's system interact?

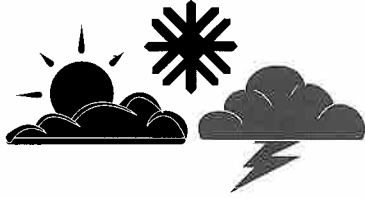
## Procedures

1. Reproduce student worksheet and give each student a copy.
2. Have students complete each question on the map and encourage them to draw illustrations to go with their answers.
3. You can use the students' answers as an informal method to assess prior knowledge by starting a class discussion. Students' answers will vary. Below are some examples of where to lead the discussion:

Examples of Student Responses	Discussion Points
The atmosphere is the air we breathe.	Discuss the composition of the Earth's atmosphere.
The geosphere is all about rocks.	Discuss the Earth's layers, the rock cycle, and weathering and erosion.
The biosphere is all living things.	Discuss with students that the biosphere not only includes all living things, but also the environment that supports them.
The hydrosphere is all about rain and snow.	Discuss with students that the hydrosphere includes all of Earth's water.



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The atmosphere is . . .

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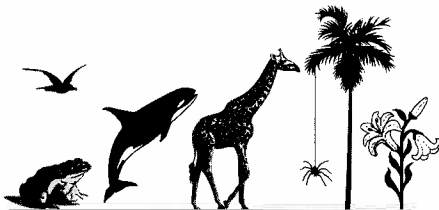
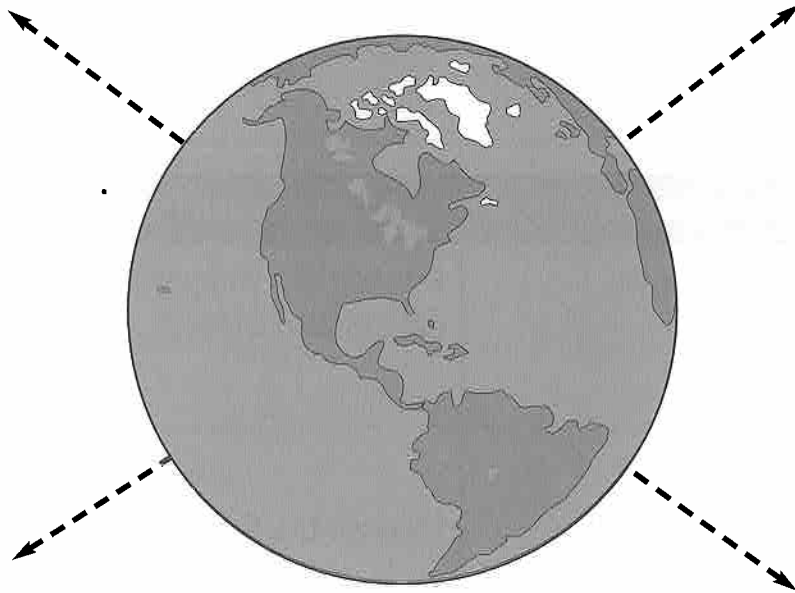


The hydrosphere is . . .

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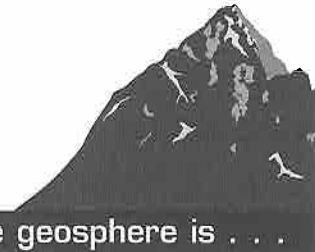


The biosphere is . . .

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The geosphere is . . .

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