

## Chapter 1 Objectives and Key Terms



### *Learning Objectives*

After reading, studying, and discussing the chapter, students should be able to:

- Briefly define geology as a science.
- Explain the relationship between geology, people, and the environment.
- Discuss the history of geology, including the concepts of uniformitarianism and catastrophism.
- Briefly explain relative dating of geologic events and the geologic timescale.
- Briefly discuss the nature of scientific inquiry and scientific methods.
- Define and briefly discuss the major “spheres” of Earth.
- Explain Earth system science and the changes involved in natural systems.
- Discuss Earth as a system.
- Explain the concept of the rock cycle.
- Briefly discuss the formation of the solar system in the nebular hypothesis.
- Compare and contrast the layers of Earth that are defined by composition with those defined by physical properties.
- Discuss the theory of plate tectonics and list the three types of plate boundaries.

abyssal plain  
asthenosphere  
atmosphere  
biosphere  
catastrophism  
closed system  
continental margin  
continental shelf  
continental slope  
convergent boundary  
core  
crust  
deep-ocean basin  
deep-ocean trench  
divergent boundary  
Earth system science  
fossil  
fossil succession, principle of  
geology  
geosphere  
historical geology  
hydrosphere  
hypothesis  
igneous rock  
inner core  
interface

lithosphere  
lower mantle  
magma  
mantle  
mesosphere  
metamorphic rock  
model  
nebular hypothesis  
negative feedback mechanism  
oceanic (mid-ocean) ridge  
open system  
outer core  
paradigm  
physical geology  
plate  
plate tectonics, theory of  
positive feedback mechanism  
relative age dating  
rock cycle  
seafloor spreading  
seamount  
sediment  
sedimentary rock  
shield  
stable platform  
subduction zone

# Geology

Lancaster High School

Name

Date

Block

## Chapter 1 Objectives and Key Terms

---



superposition, law of  
system

theory

transform fault boundary

uniformitarianism