

What Is Earth Science?

KEY IDEAS

As you read this section, keep these questions in mind:

- What are two cultures that contributed to modern science?
- What are the four main branches of Earth science?
- How do Earth scientists help us understand the world?

How Did Ancient People Study Earth?

People have wondered about natural events on Earth for thousands of years. They felt earthquakes shake the ground, saw volcanoes erupt, and watched eclipses darken the sky.

Some people created myths or stories to explain how these events happened. Others carefully watched and studied these events. They tried to learn what caused the events. Each time someone discovered a possible cause, it helped people develop explanations for other events.

The table below shows some historical observations that were important to the study of Earth.

Approximate Date	Development
780 BCE	People in China began to keep records about earthquakes.
200 BCE	Ancient Greeks gathered and recorded information about rocks and minerals.
300–900 CE	Ancient Maya watched the moon and recorded information about eclipses.
1600s	The microscope was invented.
1700s	The telescope was invented.

For a long time, people could use only their unaided eyes to study Earth and space. After the telescope and microscope were invented, people could observe objects and events more clearly. For example, Galileo used a telescope to see Jupiter's moons.

Today, scientists continue to study the natural world. **Earth science** is the study of Earth and the universe around it. Earth scientists use observations and experiments to find the causes of events in nature. 

READING TOOLBOX

Organize As you read this section, make a spider map that identifies the major branches of Earth science. Add details about each branch, such as what it focuses on and how knowledge from that branch can be helpful to society.



READING CHECK

1. Define What is Earth science?

Holt Earth Science Answer Key Ch 20

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Holt Biology Chapter 20 Resource File: Viruses and Bacteria Holt Rinehart & Winston, Holt, Rinehart and Winston Staff, 2004 **Holt Earth** Holt, Rinehart and Winston Staff, 1994 Holt Science & Technology Tennessee Holt Rinehart & Winston, 2003 *Holt Science and Technology* Holt Rinehart & Winston, Holt, Rinehart and Winston Staff, 2001

Children's Books in Print, 2007, 2006 **Holt Earth Science**, 1994 **Books in Print Supplement**, 2002

Holt Physical Science Mapi M. Cuevas, 1994 **Space Based Radar** S Unnikrishna Pillai, Ke Yong Li, Braham Himed, 2008-01-10 The First Comprehensive Guide to the Principles Design Methods and Applications of Space Based Radar Turn to Space Based Radar for authoritative information on the latest developments in Space Based Radar SBR covering fundamental principles cutting edge design methods and several new applications This SBR guide focuses on clutter and target data generation from an SBR platform and on Space Time Adaptive Processing STAP to enhance the target detection and the clutter cancellation capabilities of the radar system Designed to save you hours of research time and effort this one stop resource explores the full range of SBR topics including SBR footprint and range foldover phenomenon Doppler shift that accounts for Earth's rotation terrain modeling STAP algorithms for enhanced target detection and much more Packed with over 250 full color illustrations Space Based Radar features Complete coverage of the technical issues associated with SBR and their impact on system performance A CD containing all of the book's illustrations equations and samples plus more than 250 PowerPoint slides for self study or lectures Inside This Pioneering SBR Sourcebook Introducing Space Based Radar The Conics Two Body Orbital Motion and Kepler's Laws SBR Kinematics Space Time Adaptive Processing for Space Based Radar Performance Analysis Using Cramer Rao Bounds Waveform Diversity Forthcoming Books Rose Arny, 2003-04

Holt Science and Technology 2002 Holt Rinehart & Winston, Holt, Rinehart and Winston Staff, 2002 **Children's Books in Print** R R Bowker Publishing, Bowker, 1999-12 *Te HS&T J* Holt Rinehart & Winston, Holt, Rinehart and Winston Staff, 2004-02 *Science Spectrum* Holt Rinehart & Winston, Holt, Rinehart and Winston Staff, 2003-03 **Holt Science: Teacher's edition** Joseph Abruscato, 1989 *The Saturday Review of Politics, Literature, Science, Art, and Finance*, 1922 Journal of Research of the National Bureau of Standards United States. National Bureau of Standards, 1968 *English Mechanic and World of Science*, 1885 **Nuclear Science Abstracts**, 1972 *Journal of Research of the National Bureau of Standards*, 1968

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