Earth Science is all around us

Summer is a great time for homeschooled students to explore the many divisions of Earth Science. With the weather being warm, the days are longer, and there are more opportunities to study Earth Science in your own backyard!

Soil Science is the study of soil as a natural resource. Let kids dig* a hole and examine changes in the soil structure as they dig deeper. Can you see layers in the soil? Be sure to supervise digging children and keep them safe.

*Before digging, have your property flagged by your local utilities by calling 811.

Study Hydrology, the science of water distribution and movement. Once your utility lines have been flagged, you may have an area for digging. To see flooding has washed away large sections of the park itself.

Warm evenings can allow for a more comfortable study of stars, constellations and planets. You should be able to see Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn this summer. Stardate.org is an excellent site for more information on topics in astronomy.

Dabble in Meteorology. Learn basic cloud formations, and record rainfall for a month by reading a rain gauge at the same time each day. Cocorahs.org is an excellent source for citizen science weather information. CoCoRAHS provides online training on how to read a rain gauge, and offers, through free membership, a way your family can provide weather data from your home that can be used in the study of weather throughout the nation.

Geology is all around us in Colorado. Whether your summer takes you to the mountains or the ocean, you will be sure to find some of the same natural science subject.

Paleontology is another Earth Science subject that is available to study here in Colorado. The Dinosaur Resource Center in Woodland Park has a great assortment of fossils. Dinosaur Ridge in Morrison CO offers the opportunity to see fossils and dinosaur footprints right where they were found. Both of these areas have fees.

Volcanology is a bit trickier, although summer is a great time to make that baking soda/vinegar volcano outside! Should you drive up to Cripple Creek, you can see a very ancient caldera; the city is built inside this caldera. The ancient volcanoes are why gold is found in this part of the state.

Geochemistry is more than just maps. By looking at maps, we can see how the surface of the earth impacted human settlement. Rivers, mountains, and access to arable lands are all reasons why people built cities in one area, and not another — this is the study of human geography.

Enjoy your summer studies in Earth Science!
Homeschool Programs

FREE! Curriculum Swap
Revitalize your family’s learning resources! Join us to exchange curriculum with other homeschooling families. This is a completely free event. No money will be exchanged. Please call 531-6333, x1403 or email gsohns@ppld.org if you plan to bring curriculum to swap so we can reserve a table for you. Hope to see you there!
Thu., June 27 • 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. • East Library

Homeschool Resource Fair
Come visit with local organizations and learn how they can help you educate your children. We’ll have enrichment programs, scouting, lessons, field trip destinations, support groups, and other resources represented.
Fri., Aug. 9 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • East Library

Science Lab Orientation Meeting
Come to a brief orientation meeting about East Library’s Homeschool Science Lab and then check out the Lab itself. You’ll find out about the equipment we have available and what you can do in the lab with your children.
Fri., Aug. 30 • 1 - 3 p.m. • East Library

Other Events & Programs

Teens
Knitting Club
Join the Knitting Kninjas in the East Teen Center! Yarn and needles are available for practice, but please bring your own projects, too! Ages 12 - 18 only.
Ages 12 - 18 only. 1st and 3rd Thursday every month • 4 - 5 p.m.

Summer Reading Program

June 1 - August 31, 2013
We have two reading programs for kids this year, Dig Into Reading for Babies and Toddlers (ages 0 - 2) and Dig Into Reading” (ages 3 and up). For the younger children, parents will read and do some fun activities with their little ones. Older kids will keep track of the amount of books they read. Participants in both programs earn prizes along the way including a free book to take home!

Visit our Dig Into Reading website (we’ll have this link soon) to register and find dates and locations of our fun summer programming.

Would you like to be a Featured Family? Contact Gail at gsohns@ppld.org.

Kids - Dig Into Reading

Teens - Beneath the Surface
The teen summer reading program is open to anyone entering grades 6 - 12. Up for grabs are coupon books for free eats and games, books or journals, T-shirts, an eReader, wall climbing lessons, laser quest tickets, and more! Join other teens at your library and participate in many different programs being offered throughout the summer including movie nights, crafts, programs with Chyenne Mountain Zoo, a writing contest, and more!
Visit the teen webpage (ppld.org/teens) for event times and locations and for online registration. Please keep in mind that some teen programs do require registration and may have age restrictions.

Pikes Peak Library District

The beauty of this book is the author/illustrator taking something as common as crayons, or socks and composing a poem on the topic. Forget being intimidated by poetry! Ages 4 - 10; Literature – poetry

The words of these poems are written one word per line, with no punctuation or capitalization. Where do they start? Either at the bottom of the page and read up, or at the top of the page, and read down – you and your children will have to try it one way, and then the other to find the correct set of words. This is another lovely book that makes poetry completely approachable and easy enough for anyone to imitate.

A Meal of the Stars: Poems Up and Down by Dana Jensen (2012)
Ages 4 - 14; Literature – poetry

Little-Known Secrets
Are you looking for a great all-in-one resource for research projects? Looking for one source that works for a variety of grade levels, for a variety of learners, and is a trusted name? Look no further than World Book Online!

World Book Online: PPLD’s World Book resource is divided into four separate resources.

World Book Online for Kids has easy to read articles and media resources for children, as well as a variety of learning resources, designed mainly for children ages 5 - 9. The site features articles, pictures, maps, and videos. There is a read-aloud function for the text as well as a translation feature.

World Book Online Info Finder is designed for elementary and middle school-aged researchers looking for resources for homework or research reports. Info Finder features more than 40,000 encyclopedia and reference articles. This is a great source for current events as the information is updated every 2 - 4 weeks in the case of recent developments.

World Book Discover is designed for middle school-aged students and above. It’s the optimum tool for visual learners! The student can create fully customized timelines with their own images or images from World Book to create family trees, add personal events to historical ones, or create timelines of current events.

If you have a student that is doing a big project, the My Research portion of the site is a plus! All research on World Book Discover can be saved.

The How To Do Research section of World Book Discover is an excellent source for teaching research skills: planning research, conducting research, evaluating sources, compiling and organizing data, etc.

World Book Online Reference Center is designed for high school-aged, research grade students. In addition to World Book’s encyclopedic content, there are several hundred thousand primary source documents and thousands of eBooks.
To access World Book Online, visit ppld.org and find Databases A-Z in the left-hand pane. Click on it and then enter World Book in the Search Databases field. Click on the blue link for World Book Online and your student will have a multitude of tools available to do quality research!

World Book Online:

- PERFECT FOR:
  - Research Projects
  - Variety of Grade Levels
  - Variety of Learners
  - Trusted Resource

- FEATURES:
  - Read-aloud Function
  - Translation Feature

- USES:
  - Family Trees
  - Personal Events
  - Current Events Timelines

- ACCESS:
  - ppld.org
  - Databases A-Z

- BENEFITS:
  - Quality Research Tools

Top Tips: Be the Best at Math
by Rebecca Risman (2013)
The Top Tips series has several great books on typical school topics. The Math book has a dozen hints for estimating, looking at a problem differently, and some shortcuts to answers. The Top Tips: Be the Best at Writing has easy to understand information about revision, different types of writing, using outlines and much more. Top Tips: Be the Best at Science explains complex science ideas in simple terms.

All three books: Reading level is 1st - 3rd; Interest level is 3rd - 5th.

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- WORLD BOOK ONLINE
- INFO FINDER
- DISCOVER
- REFERENCE CENTER

Book of Animal Poetry
Expect high quality photographs, all labeled with the precise animal name, and 200 poems about animals, from well known poets, traditional rhymes, and silly rhymes by Ogden Nash.

Ages 4 - 14; Literature – poetry; Science – naming animals

Summer Reading Program

The beauty of this book is the author/illustrator taking something as common as crayons, or socks and composing a poem on the topic. Forget being intimidated by poetry!

Ages 4 - 10; Literature – poetry

A Meal of the Stars: Poems Up and Down by Dana Jensen (2012)
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Ages 6 - 14; Literature – poetry

Dealing with Depression
by Pauline B. Lewis (2010)
An introduction to understanding and coping with depression.

Ages 9 - 14; Literature – poetry

The beauty of this book is the author/illustrator taking something as common as crayons, or socks and composing a poem on the topic. Forget being intimidated by poetry!

Ages 4 - 10; Literature – poetry

A Meal of the Stars: Poems Up and Down by Dana Jensen (2012)
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Ages 6 - 14; Literature – poetry

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