# 5. Earth’s Systems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

5-ESS2-1. **Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact.**  
Clariﬁcation statement: Examples could include the inﬂuence of the ocean on ecosystems, landform shape, and climate; the inﬂuence of the atmosphere on landforms and ecosystems through weather and climate; and the inﬂuence of mountain ranges on winds and clouds in the atmosphere. The geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere are each a system.  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to interactions of two systems at a time.]

5-ESS2-2. **Describe and graph the amounts and percentages of water and fresh water in various reservoirs to provide evidence about the distribution of water on Earth.**  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to oceans, lakes, rivers, glaciers, ground water, and polar ice caps, and does not include the atmosphere.]

5-ESS3-1. **Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth’s resources and environment.**

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### Science and Engineering Practices

**Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.

- Develop a model using an example to describe a scientific principle. (5-ESS2-1)

**Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking**

Mathematical and computational thinking in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative measurements to a variety of physical properties and using computation and mathematics to analyze data and compare alternative design solutions.

- Describe and graph quantities such as area and volume to address scientific questions. (5-ESS2-2)

**Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**

Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to evaluating the merit and accuracy of ideas and methods.

- Obtain and combine information from books and/or other reliable media to explain phenomena or solutions to a design problem. (5-ESS3-1)

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### Disciplinary Core Ideas

**ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems**

- Earth’s major systems are the geosphere (solid and molten rock, soil, and sediments), the hydrosphere (water and ice), the atmosphere (air), and the biosphere (living things, including humans). These systems interact in multiple ways to affect Earth’s surface materials and processes. The ocean supports a variety of ecosystems and organisms, shapes landforms, and inﬂuences climate. Winds and clouds in the atmosphere interact with the landforms to determine patterns of weather. (5-ESS2-1)

**ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth’s Surface Processes**

- Nearly all of Earth’s available water is in the ocean. Most fresh water is in glaciers or underground; only a tiny fraction is in streams, lakes, wetlands, and the atmosphere. (5-ESS2-2)

**ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems**

- Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth’s resources and environments. (5-ESS3-1)

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### Crosscutting Concepts

**Scale, Proportion, and Quantity**

- Standard units are used to measure and describe physical quantities such as weight, and volume. (5-ESS2-2)

**Systems and System Models**

- A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions. (5-ESS2-1), (5-ESS3-1)

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### Connections to Nature of Science

Science Addresses Questions About the Natural and Material World

- Science ﬁndings are limited to questions that can be answered with empirical evidence. (5-ESS3-1)

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Connections to other DCIs in ﬁfth grade: N/A

Articulation of DCIs across grade levels: 2. ESS2.A (5-ESS2-1); 2. ESS2.C (5-ESS2-2); 3. ESS2.D (5-ESS2-1); 4. ESS2.A (5-ESS2-1); MS. ESS2.A (5-ESS2-1); MS. ESS2.C (5-ESS2-1); MS. ESS3.A (5-ESS2-2); MS. ESS3.C (5-ESS3-1); MS. ESS3.D (5-ESS3-1)

Common Core State Standards Connections:

**ELA/Literacy**

- **RI.5.1** Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. (5-ESS3-1)
- **RI.5.7** Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efﬁciently. (5-ESS2-1), (5-ESS2-2), (5-ESS3-1)
- **RI.5.9** Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgably. (5-ESS3-1)
- **W.5.8** Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and ﬁnished work, and provide a list of sources. (5-ESS2-2), (5-ESS3-1)
- **W.5.9** Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reﬂection, and research. (5-ESS3-1)
- **SL.5.5** Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, sound) and visual displays in presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes. (5-ESS2-1), (5-ESS2-2)

**Mathematics**

- **MP.2** Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (5-ESS2-1), (5-ESS3-1)
- **MP.4** Model with mathematics. (5-ESS2-1), (5-ESS3-1)
- **5.G.2** Represent real-world and mathematical problems by graphing points in the first quadrant of the coordinate plane, and interpret coordinate values of points in the context of the situation. (5-ESS2-1)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea. The section entitled “Disciplinary Core Ideas” is reproduced verbatim from A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Cross-Cutting Concepts, and Core Ideas. Integrated and reprinted with permission from the National Academy of Sciences.*

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