



Thank you so much for your interest in this copy of Advanced Earth Science

Hello there! Thank you so much for your willingness to bring this curriculum into your home. This curriculum is the embodiment of nearly two years of research and study. In my efforts, I believe I have brought the best earth science curriculum for your family. Please keep in mind that I have built this curriculum as an introductory high school course into the basic concepts of earth science. I am certain you will not be disappointed.

If you are new to the Classic Science series, the following information will give you an overview of the coming year. For seasoned veterans out there, the format of this text is similarly arranged to the other 36-week curricula within the advanced series. I'll go into a little more detail with the timeline of this text very shortly.

Most importantly, I want to thank each and every one of you who have helped guide me throughout the years. Your time and effort will not be forgotten. I could not have achieved so much without your help....

Studying 101

The study of earth science is loaded with overlapping concepts and definitions. I highly recommend purchasing notebook to highlight the main ideas that are encountered. Throughout the year, many of these definitions are used over and over again. I'm really not kidding here 😊

A notebook will be very helpful within this curriculum as several of the lab activities require monitoring and reporting for several weeks.

Weekly Timeline

This is a 36-week curriculum for children of ages 12-18 and has been segmented into two- and three-week units each ending with a unit quiz. Each week may be broken down into three separate days to make it easier for you to set up your schedule:

- 1) The first day of each week contains a reading assignment and a series of practice problems for your child.*
- 2) The second day can be spent reviewing the answers from the practice problems on the first day, to review the notes/flash cards for the week, AND to preview the weekly lab activity which may require some preparation.*
- 3) The third day is set aside for a lab activity that will reinforce the concepts being taught that week. ***Several of the labs require*

A sample timeline for this textbook can be seen below which contains the Unit Quizzes and Summative Test schedule:

Weeks	Weekly Assignment	Assessment
Week 1	Unit 1: Chapter 1	
Week 2	Unit 1: Chapter 2	
Week 3	Unit 1: Chapter 3	Unit Quiz
Week 4	Unit 2: Chapter 4	
Week 5	Unit 2: Chapter 5	Unit Quiz
Week 6		Summative Test

Unit Quizzes and the diabolical Summative Tests

Each unit contains a quiz in similar format to the weekly practice problems. Students should study not only their vocabulary terms, but any labeled images throughout the textbook as well.

Six summative tests have been created to further assess your child's understanding of the chapter concepts in addition to the unit quizzes. Due to the length of these tests and the volume of information that is covered, your child will need time to prepare and a full week has been provided for this purpose:

Test #	Week	Chapters	Topics
1	6	1-5	General ecology
2	12	6-10	Geosphere
3	18	11-15	Hydrosphere
4	24	16-20	Atmosphere
5	30	21-25	Biosphere
6	36	26-30	Anthroposphere

I would highly recommend setting up a regular schedule during the testing week. Segmenting these weeks into three or more separate days will make it easier to review the large amount of vocabulary and scientific concepts. Here are my suggestions:

- 1) *The first or second days of each testing week should be spent reviewing the weekly practice problems and unit quizzes. Do not forget to study the labeled diagrams within each chapter as well.*
- 2) *One day should obviously be allowed for your child to complete the test.*
- 3) *An additional day needs to be set aside to evaluate the answers, correct any possible mistakes within the notecards, and for an overall review. This material overlaps many times throughout the year. The tests can be the most powerful learning tool throughout the year.*

Weekly Labs

There are several labs that require some minor construction within this textbook. I have created these activities with the simplest of materials that will provide a maximum amount of enjoyment and education for your child. I cannot stress the importance of looking ahead each week to obtain the necessary materials. A materials list has been provided in the next few pages of this text and can also be found online on my website www.eequalsmcq.com Most materials can be found at a local grocery/department store; however, some items (such as magnet wire and rare earth magnets) may require a trip to Radio Shack or an online provider.

Future projects

There will be (at least) one more book in the Advanced series! The best way to keep up-to-date on this development is to sign up for my monthly LabNotes at www.eequalsmcq.com. I'm certain you'll love the free activities I provide each month for you and your family!

Once again, thank you all so much for your continual support and advice. I have read all of your emails and have taken all of them to heart. I honestly could not have done this without your help. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

And thank you for your tireless efforts to guide your children through the concepts of science. Your hard work will not be forgotten in the young lives you are molding right now.

As I've said before - above all else, keep asking questions and keep searching for the answers! And if you get stuck, I'm only a click away mrq@eeequalsmcq.com

Take care,

Scott McQuerry