

Earth Science

in the NI Primary Curriculum

Earth Science lessons

WHAT ON EARTH?

It gives Earth Science Outreach much pleasure to introduce this package of Earth Science lessons and supporting materials.

Earth Science Outreach (ESO) is a panel of interested teachers, geologists and others and it is involved in supporting and promoting an awareness of Earth Science issues and topics in schools and colleges. The work of ESO is endorsed and actively supported by both Earth Science Ireland (ESI) and the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI).

The learning intentions within the World Around Us could be approached from a variety of angles and the prepared lessons address them from an earth science perspective. Many of the issues are not only very topical in the media but of great interest to children.

Specifically, for Key Stage 2, the 'World Around Us' Area of Learning has been addressed through a framework of four main Units which encompass 14 lessons as summarised:

Planet Earth	Dynamic Earth	Violent Earth	Future Earth
Rock observation Rock properties Rock types	Rock breakers Rocks on the move Environmental impacts	Plate tectonics Volcanoes Earthquakes Environmental impacts	Rocks in our lives Fossil fuels Renewables Water

The opportunity has also been taken to ensure that many scientific principles and concepts are embedded in the lessons. This is intended to support the teaching of Science in the primary curriculum.

The lessons are supported by a variety of resources which are also included in the package; internet links, PowerPoint presentations and video materials being among the range. Practical demonstrations for teaching staff and activities which can be performed by children are made available so that lessons can be brought to life and actively involve all the participants. For the seven rock types referred to in the lessons, a number of kits are being assembled and arrangements are being made to make these available to schools.

Earth Science Outreach hopes that schools will find the materials easy to use, cognisant of CCEA's terminology and hopefully, above all – a source of interest and fascination to children.

If you have any comments or feedback on any aspect of these resources then please contact gsni@detni.gov.uk.

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