1.1 What is Earth Science?

**What is Earth Science?**

Section 1.1

- Early Interest in the Earth
  - Myths and stories
    - Greek myth - Gaia
    - Japanese myth - Japan created from mud
  - Careful observations
    - Chinese - earthquakes
    - Greek - catalogued rocks and minerals
    - Mayan - tracked the movement of the sun, moon, and planets
  - Limited technology - just eyeballs

- Earth Science
  - The study of Earth and the universe around it
  - Assumption: Causes of natural events (phenomena) can be discovered through careful observation and experimentation
  - 4 branches: geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy

- Geology
  - "Geo" means earth
  - Study of the origin, history, processes, and structure of solid Earth

- Oceanography
  - Study of Earth's oceans

- Meteorology
  - Study of Earth's atmosphere, especially in relation to weather and climate
1.1 What is Earth Science?

**ASTRONOMY**

study of the universe

**IMPORTANCE OF EARTH SCIENCE**

Earth scientists help us
a. predict natural disasters
b. understand our place in the universe
c. gain access to natural resources
d. use resources wisely

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. Name 2 cultures that contributed to the modern study of Earth.

2. Name the 4 main branches of Earth Science.

3. Discuss how Earth scientists help us understand the world around us.