



Grades 9–12

3.3.9-12.E Earth and Space Science: Weather and Climate

Students who demonstrate understanding can *use a model to describe how variations in the flow of energy into and out of Earth's systems result in changes in climate.*

Clarifying Statement: Examples of the causes of climate change differ by timescale, over 1-10 years: large volcanic eruption, ocean circulation; 10-100s of years: changes in human activity, ocean circulation, solar output; 10-100s of thousands of years: changes to Earth's orbit and the orientation of its axis; and 10-100s of millions of years: long-term changes in atmospheric composition.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment of the results of changes in climate is limited to changes in surface temperatures, precipitation patterns, glacial ice volumes, sea levels, and biosphere distribution.

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP)	Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)	Crosscutting Concepts (CCC)
<p>Developing and Using Models</p> <p>Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed world(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a model to provide mechanistic accounts of phenomena. 	<p>Earth and the Solar System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyclical changes in the shape of Earth's orbit around the sun, together with changes in the tilt of the planet's axis of rotation, both occurring over hundreds of thousands of years, have altered the intensity and distribution of sunlight falling on the earth. These phenomena cause a cycle of ice ages and other gradual climate changes. <p>Earth Materials and System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The geological record shows that changes to global and regional climate can be caused by interactions among changes in the sun's energy output or Earth's orbit, tectonic events, ocean circulation, volcanic activity, glaciers, vegetation, and human activities. These changes can occur on a variety of time scales from sudden (e.g., volcanic ash clouds) to intermediate (ice ages) to very long-term tectonic <p>Weather and Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The foundation for Earth's global climate systems is the electromagnetic radiation from the sun, as well as its reflection, absorption, storage, and redistribution among the atmosphere, ocean, and land systems, and this energy's re-radiation into space. 	<p>Cause and Effect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects.
<p>Connections to Nature of Science</p> <p>Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science arguments are strengthened by multiple lines of evidence supporting a single explanation. 		



Pennsylvania Context: N/A

PA Career Ready Skills: Evaluate consequences from a personal, and civic perspective to inform decision-making.

Connections to Other Standards Content and Practices

Standard Source	Possible Connections to Other Standard(s) or Practice(s)
Agriculture (AFNR)	CS.06.01.01.a: Research and explain the foundational cycles in AFNR (e.g., water cycle, nutrient cycle, carbon cycle, etc.).
Science, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (NAEE)	9-12 Strand 2.1.A. Earth's physical systems: Learners describe the major processes and systems that form Earth and relate these processes, especially those that are large-scale and long-term to characteristics of Earth. They explain how changes in one system (hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere) result in changes to another. They describe how human sustainability depends on Earth systems. 9-12 Strand 2.1.B. Earth's living systems: Learners describe basic population dynamics, genetic mechanisms behind biological evolution, and the importance of diversity in living systems. They explain how changes in the hydrosphere, atmosphere, and geosphere affect the biosphere. They describe how human sustainability is dependent on the biosphere.
PA Core Standards: ELA	CC.3.5.9-10.G: Translate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text into visual form (e.g., a table or chart) and translate information expressed visually or mathematically (e.g., in an equation) into words. CC.3.5.11-12.G: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
PA Core Standards and Practices: Math	MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. MP.4: Model with mathematics. CC.2.4.HS.B.4: Recognize and evaluate random processes underlying statistical experiments. CC.2.4.HS.B.5: Make inferences and justify conclusions based on sample surveys, experiments, and observational studies.
PA Standards: Social Studies	7.2.9.B: Explain the dynamics of the fundamental processes that underlie the operation of Earth's physical systems.
Educational Technology (ISTE)	1.6. Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.
Technology and Engineering (ITEEA)	STEL-10: Assess how similarities and differences among scientific, mathematical, engineering, and technological knowledge and skills contributed to the design of a product or system.