

Biology—Biologists at the USGS study the plants and animals that share the Earth with us. They examine the effects of disease and contaminants on wildlife. Their data are used to help manage Federal lands, such as National Parks, and to protect endangered species.

www.usgs.gov

Maps and Mapping—Maps are drawings or pictures of the surface of the Earth or other planetary body. They are easy to carry around and full of information. Maps let us know where we are, and we use them to travel, plan for the future, and understand our environment.

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Rocks and Minerals—Rocks are made of many minerals, some of which have beautiful crystals. Quartz is a very common mineral and diamond one of the rarest. Scientists divide rocks into three groups—igneous (like granite), sedimentary (like sandstone), and metamorphic (like marble).

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Volcanoes—The lands around the Pacific Ocean, including the western United States, have so many volcanoes that they are called the Ring of Fire. By studying volcanoes and learning to predict when they are about to erupt, USGS scientists have saved many lives.

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Paleomagnetism—The Earth is a giant magnet, and a compass needle points toward the north magnetic pole. When rocks form, some minerals record that magnetic direction. By measuring this preserved direction in ancient rocks, scientists can show that the continents have moved!

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WELCOME TO THE USGS—Take a journey through the sciences at the U.S. Geological Survey. USGS scientists study geology, plants, and animals, analyze water, and create digital maps. Find out how much you already know about the Sciences of the Earth.

www.usgs.gov

Earthquakes—When blocks of the Earth's crust suddenly slip and move against each other, we feel an earthquake. USGS scientists study quakes to find out why they happened. Each of us needs to prepare for earthquakes, because they will always be a part of life in California.

www.usgs.gov

California Geological Survey—Our mission is to provide scientific products and services about the state's geology, seismology and mineral resources including their related hazards, that affect the health, safety, and business interests of the people of California.

www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/

Marine Geology—Oceans of the world contain animals, plants, and minerals that scientists study to help understand changes in weather, fishing, and erosion along the coast. Large ships are used to collect these samples from the deep ocean.

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Water—Water is our most valuable resource. USGS scientists map where fresh water is found and study how safe the water is to drink. Did you know that much of our fresh water is underground? By learning about water resources, we can help manage them for the future.

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