4-ESS2 Earth's Systems

4-ESS2-1. Make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation. [Clarification Statement: Examples of variables to test could include angle of slope in the downhill movement of water, amount of vegetation, speed of wind, relative rate of deposition, cycles of freezing and thawing of water, cycles of heating and cooling, and volume of water flow.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to a single form of weathering or erosion.]

4-ESS2-2. Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth’s features. [Clarification Statement: Maps can include topographic maps of Earth’s land and ocean floor, as well as maps of the locations of mountains, continental boundaries, volcanoes, and earthquakes.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

Articulation of DCIs across grade levels:

- 2.ESS1.C (4-ESS2-1); 2.ESS2.A (4-ESS2-1); 2.ESS2.B (4-ESS2-2); 2.ESS2.C (4-ESS2-2); 5.ESS2.A (4-ESS2-1); 5.ESS2.C (4-ESS2-2); MS.ESS1.C (4-ESS2-2); MS.ESS2.A (4-ESS2-2); MS.ESS2.B (4-ESS2-2)

Connections to other DCIs in fourth grade: N/A

Science and Engineering Practices

Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to include investigations that control variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.
- Make observations and/or measurements to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence for an explanation of a phenomenon. (4-ESS2-1)

Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.
- Analyze and interpret data to make sense of phenomena using logical reasoning. (4-ESS2-2)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems
- Rainfall helps to shape the land and affects the types of living things found in a region. Water, ice, wind, living organisms, and gravity break rocks, soils, and sediments into smaller particles and move them around. (4-ESS2-1)

ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions
- The locations of mountain ranges, deep ocean trenches, ocean floor structures, earthquakes, and volcanoes occur in patterns. Most earthquakes and volcanoes occur in bands that are often along the boundaries between continents and oceans. Major mountain chains form inside continents or near their edges. Maps can help locate the different land and water features areas of Earth. (4-ESS2-2)

ESS2.E: Biogeology
- Living things affect the physical characteristics of their regions. (4-ESS2-1)

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns
- Patterns can be used as evidence to support an explanation. (4-ESS2-2)

Cause and Effect
- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified, tested, and used to explain change. (4-ESS2-1)

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea. The section entitled “Disciplinary Core Ideas” is reproduced verbatim from A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Cross-Cutting Concepts, and Core Ideas. Integrated and reprinted with permission from the National Academy of Sciences.