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Explore ‘Big Ideas’ of Geoscience with Earth Science Week 2011

Alexandria, VA - The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) now offers free videos and other electronic resources to help students, educators, and others explore the “big ideas” of Earth science during Earth Science Week 2011 (9-15 October) and throughout the year.

Big Ideas videos bring to life the “big ideas” of Earth science. These are the nine core concepts that everyone should know, including “Earth scientists use repeatable observations and testable ideas to understand and explain our planet” and “Earth is continuously changing.” The Earth Science Literacy Initiative, funded by the National Science Foundation, has codified these underlying understandings of Earth science that form the basis of the Big Ideas videos.

Science educators are encouraged to use the videos either as an introduction to, or summary of, activities relating to the corresponding idea. Students can then create their own learning materials for younger age groups, and build assessments around supporting concepts in the videos.

The Big Ideas DVD is featured in the Earth Science Week 2011 Toolkit, available at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/materials/index.html>. To view the Big Ideas videos for free online, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/AGIeducation>, and search TeacherTube later this year.

The Earth Science Week website provides related resources. Educators can find dozens of classroom activities to help students build their understanding of the “big ideas” at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/forteachers/bigideas/main.html>

AGI coordinates Earth Science Week annually in cooperation with its sponsors and the geoscience community as a service to the public. Each year, educators, community groups, and interested citizens organize celebratory events, discover the earth sciences, and engage in responsible stewardship of the Earth. Earth Science Week is supported by the U.S. Geological Survey, the AAPG Foundation, NASA, the National Park Service, ExxonMobil, and ESRI. To learn more about Earth Science Week, please go to <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>.

The American Geosciences Institute is a nonprofit federation of 50 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 250,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.

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