

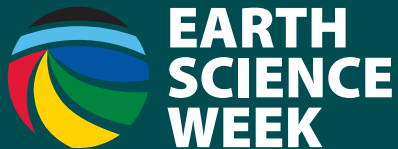
Critical Minerals for a Thriving Society

Earth Science Resource Calendar, 2026–2027 School Year



Credit: ©iStock/BJP7images

This picture shows minerals and mineral ores. Which minerals are considered critical? How is that determined?



**EARTH
SCIENCE
WEEK**



This publication was produced with the generous support of many sponsors as part of their commitment to advancing geoscience education and outreach, including: American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation; American Geosciences Institute; Critical Materials Innovation Hub; ExxonMobil; Minerals Council of Australia; National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA);

National Park Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Nutrients for Life; Seequent; Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration; Society of Exploration Geophysicists Foundation; The University of Texas at Austin, Choose Energy Program; U.S. Geological Survey; Visible Geology; Xplorlabs.

Earth Science Week 2026
American Geosciences Institute
www.americangeosciences.org

Critical Minerals for a Thriving Society

Earth science is fundamental to understanding the mineral resources that support a thriving society. Geoscientists study the processes that form, concentrate, and distribute minerals within the Earth. Through field mapping, geochemical analysis, and geophysical surveys, geoscientists help identify mineral deposits, evaluate supply risks, and guide responsible extraction, use, and recycling. Because some minerals are more economically important and vulnerable to supply disruption, the label “critical minerals” emerged in the late 20th century as governments and industries recognized the need to monitor the use of specific minerals. For the United States, both the U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of the Interior develop lists of critical minerals. As technologies and global demands change over time, so too do the minerals identified as “critical,” reflecting evolving economic, environmental, and security priorities. These shifting needs place critical minerals at the center of vital topics such as national security, energy technologies, and infrastructure development — making earth science expertise more important than ever.

The study of earth science in classrooms, laboratories, and field sites around the world can help students understand mineral formation and how the properties of minerals affect their potential uses. The Earth Science Week 2026 theme, “Critical Minerals for a Thriving Society” encourages educators to integrate earth science with chemistry, civics, economics, engineering, and environmental studies to help students see how knowledge of the geosciences informs resource management, innovation, and sustainability. The activities within this calendar ask students to investigate all aspects of minerals, with an emphasis on how mineral supply chains can be affected by sustainable mining practices, recycling, and other factors related to human dependency on mineral use.

This year’s celebration continues to align earth science concepts with sustainability by relating classroom activities to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, <https://sdgs.un.org/>). Each SDG outlines a global issue and how it would be addressed in a sustainable world, which allows students to connect their learning to real-world problems and potential solutions. Given this year’s theme, there is special focus on SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production.

This calendar also contains geoscience-related “holidays” — days, weeks, and months dedicated to Earth’s features, processes, and resources. We encourage you to use these occasions to celebrate Earth Science Week all year round. Days like “National Beach Day” (August 30), “World Soil Day” (December 5), “Global Recycling Day” (March 18), and many others invite you to appreciate Earth’s natural environments and to take action to preserve them for future generations. The calendar also notes the dates of education and geoscience conferences, which we encourage educators to attend as opportunities to network with fellow teachers and scientists to learn about current and authentic geoscience content that can be used in classrooms around the world.

New for this year, you will also find resource pages throughout this calendar that share resources and opportunities from our many Earth Science Week Sponsors and Partners. These pages highlight the wide range of educational materials created by geoscience organizations around the world. We encourage educators to explore these resources, which have been developed to support teaching and learning across many areas of Earth Science.



This page, top: Amy Gartman, U.S. Geological Survey Research Oceanographer and chief scientist for the Escanaba Trough expedition. Middle: Sample collection during NOAA's 2021 North Atlantic Stepping Stones expedition. Bottom: Meagan Putts, co-science lead for the Deep-Sea Symphony: Exploring the Musicians Seamounts expedition, gathers a coral sample.

Credits, top to bottom: U.S. Geological Survey; NOAA Ocean Exploration, 2021 North Atlantic Stepping Stones: New England and Corner Rise Seamounts; NOAA Ocean Exploration, Deep-Sea Symphony: Exploring the Musicians Seamounts

Earth Science Week Is for You



This year, you're invited to join the millions of participants in all 50 states and many nations worldwide who are celebrating Earth Science Week. This exciting event has grown steadily in momentum and participation since the American Geosciences Institute facilitated the first Earth Science Week in 1998.

Every year, people in schools, workplaces, civic centers, and elsewhere celebrate Earth Science Week to help build public understanding and appreciation of the earth sciences. Earth Science Week serves the geoscience community by:

- giving students new opportunities to discover the earth sciences,
- highlighting the contributions made by the geosciences to society,
- publicizing the message that earth science is all around us,

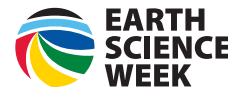


- encouraging responsible stewardship of the planet through an understanding of Earth processes,
- providing a forum where geoscientists can share their knowledge and enthusiasm about the Earth and how it works, and
- making learning about earth science fun!

Formal and informal educators, students, parents, geoscientists, and interested citizens can all play a leading role in Earth Science Week. Start with a visit to the Earth Science Week website (www.earthsciweek.org).

Let us know how you are planning to celebrate! Send us an email at info@earthsciweek.org.

**Celebrate Earth Science Week:
October 11–17, 2026!**



How can you get involved? Explore the Earth Science Week website to find a host of tools designed to make planning and attending events easy, fun, and rewarding! We have many resources to help you work with local geoscience professionals, as well as to plan engaging events for students and the public that help them consider their role in earth science, innovation, and sustainability.

You'll also find links to educational materials and activities, many of which are also available in the 2026 Earth Science Week Toolkit.

The website also includes a link to subscribe to our e-mail newsletter and to follow our social media channels so you can stay up-to-date on the latest developments and upcoming activities!

www.earthsciweek.org



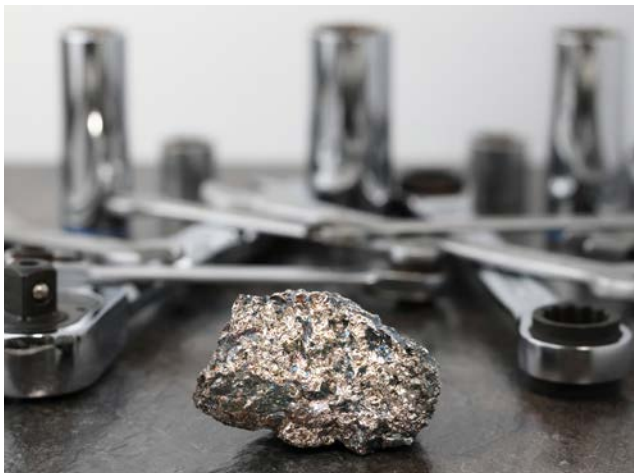
Spreading the Word About Critical Minerals

We hear the term “critical minerals” all the time in the news. But think about how, exactly, do minerals make it on the critical minerals list? Who decides what minerals go on that list? This activity is designed to connect what members of the general public think they understand about critical minerals with how critical minerals are officially defined by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). You will need to be a bit of a detective for this activity: You and your group will conduct research both online and with real people; then assemble what you find out into an exciting and educational five-minute podcast. The goal is to start from where people are now, and help them move to a clearer understanding of critical minerals.



Critical mineral ores (top right) for batteries include copper, graphite, nickel, lithium and manganese (in order from left to right). These and other minerals are used to produce electric vehicles, such as the Nissan Leaf (bottom right). Ferrochrome (shown below) is an ingredient in stainless steel and high-strength alloy tools, along with chromium, vanadium, manganese and carbon.

Credits: minerals, ferrochrome and tools: iStockPhoto/BJP7images;
car: iStockPhoto/Sjoerd van der Wal



Full learning activity is online at:



<https://bit.ly/MSA-critical-minerals>

National Water Quality Month

Sunday

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			Solar Eclipse (Total in Greenland, Iceland, Spain, and Russia)			International Geocaching Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Aug. 17–20, 2026: Geoscience Event: IMAGE 2026, American Association of Petroleum Geologists and Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Houston, Texas					Aug. 22–30, 2026: National Park Week
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Vesuvius Day National Hydropower Day					
National Beach Day		National Park Service Founders Day		National Petroleum Day World Lake Day	Aug. 27–28, 2026: Partial Lunar Eclipse (Americas, Europe, Africa, Western Asia)	
30	31					

Mining the Data: Supply and Demand for Critical Minerals

Critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel are the building blocks of the batteries and technologies driving the clean energy transition, but their supply may not keep pace with surging global demand. As renewable energy expands, geoscientists and policymakers are racing to understand where these minerals will come from, how much is available, and what shortfalls might mean for energy future. In this activity, students will analyze real-world supply and demand data and projections for select critical minerals and explore how the battery revolution is reshaping the global minerals landscape.



AAPG

Full learning activity is online at:



<https://bit.ly/AAPG-mineral-supply-demand>



The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) advances renewable energy projects through a coordinated landscape-level strategy that also preserves valuable desert habitats and outdoor spaces.

Credit: both: Bureau of Land Management, CC BY 2.0, courtesy of Tom Brewster Photography

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Protect Your Groundwater Day

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Federal Holiday:
Labor Day

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Sept. 9–12, 2026:
Geoscience Event: 45th
Annual Technical Conference
of the National Association of
Black Geoscientists (NABG),
Houston, Texas

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Patriot Day
Sept. 11–13, 2026:
Rosh Hashanah
(Sundown to Sundown)

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Sept. 14–18, 2026:
National Clean Energy Week

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International
Day for the Preservation of
the Ozone Layer

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19



World Cleanup Day
International
Observe the Moon Night

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Sept. 21–27, 2026:
National
Pollution Prevention Week
Zero Emissions Day

22

World Car-Free Day
Autumnal Equinox

23

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Sept. 25–Oct. 4, 2026:
Geoscience Event:
37th Flagstaff Festival of
Science, "Driven by Curiosity,"
Flagstaff, Arizona

26



World
Environmental Health Day
World Rivers Day

27

28

International Day
for the Universal Access
to Information

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From The Soil Comes the Spoils: Discovering Mineable Critical Minerals Beneath Our Feet

Every soil on Earth is made up of mineral particles that originated from the weathering and breakdown of rocks. These minerals include quartz, feldspar, mica, and various metal oxides (including iron and manganese) and give soil its color, texture, and chemical properties. Many of the same mineral families found in soil are the source of critical minerals: resources essential to modern technology, from the lithium in batteries to the rare earth elements in smartphones. In this activity, students will separate and examine the mineral components of soil to begin to evaluate the hidden geological (and thus pedological) wealth beneath their feet and explore how soil connects to the critical minerals that power modern society.



Full learning activity is online at:



Three soil profiles: human transported materials (top 57 cm) above a natural soil profile (North Carolina Piedmont), fine sediment deposited by water over coarse glacial outwash (Northeastern U.S.), and floodplain soil along the Susquehanna River (Danville, Pennsylvania).

Credit: Soil Science on Flickr, CC BY 2.0



National Clean Energy Action Month | National Go on a Field Trip Month

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Oct. 4–10, 2026: World Space Week Oct. 4–10, 2026: National Metric Week Oct. 4–10, 2026: Fire Prevention Week	World Teachers' Day	International Geodiversity Day			Fire Prevention Day	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Oct. 11–17, 2026: Earth Science Week International EarthCache Day Oct. 11–14, 2026: Geoscience Event: GSA Connects 2026, The Geological Society of America, Denver, Colorado	Minerals Day Federal Holiday: Indigenous Peoples' Day	No Child Left Inside Day Earth Observation Day	National Fossil Day	Geoscience for Everyone Day Oct. 15–17, 2026: Geoscience Event: AISES National Conference, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Portland, Oregon Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill: 10:17 AM local time. Learn more at ShakeOut.org	Geologic Map Day Earth Science Week Contest Due Date	International Archaeology Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Oct. 18–24, 2026: National Chemistry Week	Oct. 19–23, 2026: Nuclear Science Week					International Day of Climate Action
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			World Sustainability Day	Oct. 29–31, 2026: Geoscience Event: SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference, Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science, Long Beach, California		Halloween

Reading the Earth from the Air

Scientists flying low over a landscape like the Appalachian Mountains (pictured here) use natural radioactivity to study the ground below. By measuring tiny amounts of energy released from rocks (gamma radiation), scientists can create maps that show what is underground. These maps help scientists locate resources, identify rock and mineral types, and even spot potential health risks like radon gas, all without having to disturb the environment. In this activity, students will explore real-world data collected by the U.S. Geological Survey to learn how to interpret color-coded radiometric maps made using gamma rays emitted from elements like potassium, uranium, and thorium.

Franconia Notch and Appalachian Trail in New Hampshire.

Credit: Carol M. Highsmith, Photographs in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division



Full learning activity is online at:

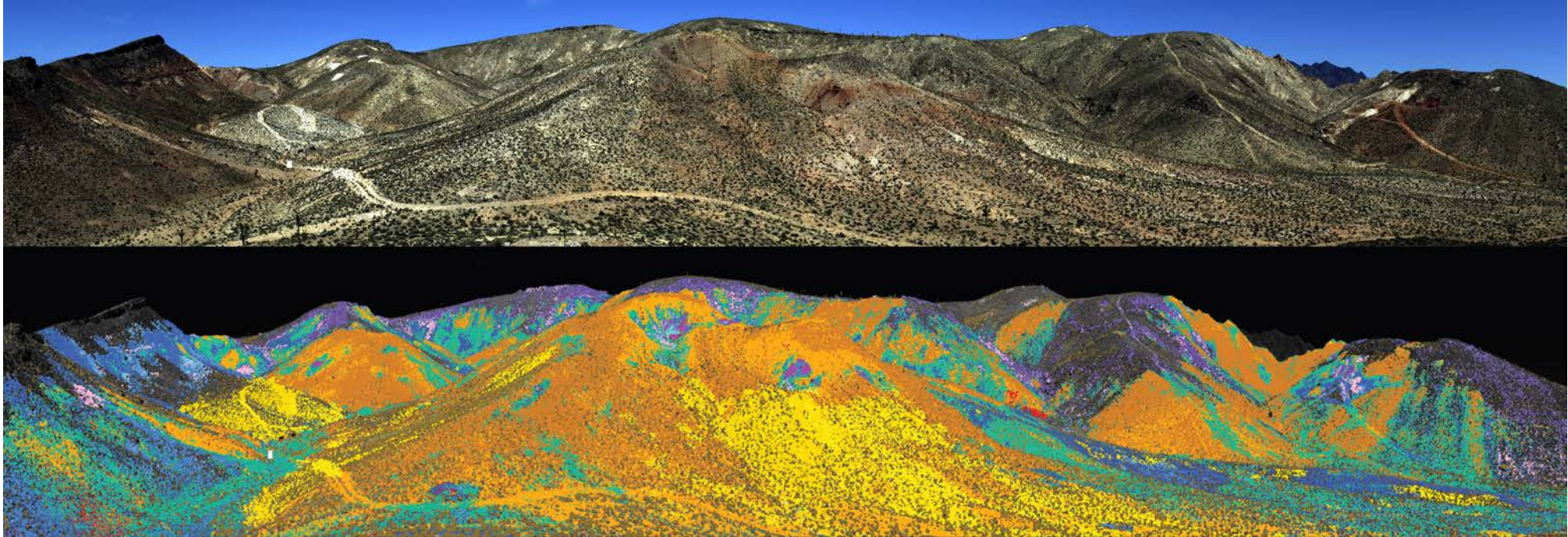


<https://bit.ly/AGU-read-earth-from-air>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov. 1–4, 2026: Geoscience Event: CANVAS: Where Crop, Agronomic, Environmental, and Soil Sciences Connect, ASA-CSSA-SSSA, Portland, Oregon	2	3	4 Nov. 4–7, 2026: Geoscience Event: NSTA National Conference on Science Education, National Science Teaching Association, Indianapolis, Indiana	5	6	7 International Day Against Violence and Bullying at School, Including Cyberbullying
8	9	10 World Science Day for Peace and Development	11 Federal Holiday: Veterans Day	12	13	14
15 National STEM/STEAM Day Diwali	16 Nov. 16–20, 2026: Geography Awareness Week	17 National Hiking Day	18 GIS Day (Geographic Information Systems) Day International Day of LGBTQIA+ People in STEM	19 National Camp Day	20	21
22 America Recycles Day	23	24	25	26 Federal Holiday: Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

How NASA Reads Minerals from Light



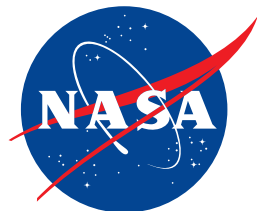
The top image is a photo of the hills of Cuprite, Nevada. Pay close attention to features you see that could be rocks exposed at the surface. What colors do you notice there? Seeing those colors, what minerals do you think might be present? Now study the bottom image. That image shows the same landscape viewed spectroscopically. How might spectroscopic images help to identify minerals?

Credit: USGS

Full learning activity is online at:

	White mica (hi/med Al)		Alunite + kaolinite		Gypsum (+clay/mica)		Weak 2.3 μ m feature
	Na montmorillonite		K alunite		Buddingtonite (+clay)		Hydrated silica (chalcedony/opal)
	Kaolinite +mica/mont./gypsum		K-Na alunite		Vegetation		
	Kaolinite (well ordered/disordered)		Na-K alunite (med./high temp.)				

SWIR pixel size is ~30 cm average for the scene, ~18 cm at 250 m (mid-image), and ~66 cm at 900 m (for NE ridge).



What if you could identify a mineral just by looking at the color of light it reflects? That's the idea behind Imaging Spectroscopy, a technology NASA originally developed to study the surfaces of other planets. Now, through a mission called the Geological Earth Mapping Experiment (GEMx), NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey are turning those same instruments toward the American West to locate critical minerals. In this activity, you will explore how light-based remote sensing works, examine real GEMx data, and consider the larger economic and environmental questions surrounding critical mineral discovery.

Universal Human Rights Month

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Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Dec. 7–11, 2026:
Geoscience Event:
AGU Fall Meeting,
American Geophysical Union,
San Francisco, California

Dec. 8–10, 2026:
Groundwater Week,
Las Vegas, Nevada

World Nuclear Energy Day

International Day of Persons
with Disabilities

Dec. 4–12, 2026:
Hanukkah
(Sundown to Sundown)

World Soil Day

International Mountain Day

Winter Solstice

Federal Holiday:
Christmas

Dec. 26–Jan. 1, 2027:
Kwanzaa

New Year's Eve

Critical Minerals Search

There is concern over the large quantity of mineral commodities crucial to defense, medicine, and technology that must be imported by the United States (U.S.) each year. The U.S. faces three key challenges in securing mineral commodities: obtaining mining permits, managing supply chain disruption, and navigating restrictions on imports and exports.

The U.S. Geological Survey has identified 60 minerals, elements and metals designated as “critical minerals.” In this activity, you will find how self-sufficient the U.S. is for a number of these, research the states where each can be found and in which states the mineral is currently being mined.



This activity and much more online at:



MineralsEducationCoalition.org/esw

Full learning activity is online at:



<https://bit.ly/MEC-critical-minerals-search>



Beryllium is refined from ores, like beryl (above), and can be used to construct components of military aircraft and aerospace equipment, such as the mirrors on the James Webb telescope (below).

Credits: top: SME; bottom: Rob Gutro, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.



Lithium can be extracted from brines, or from ores like spodumene (above). Lithium is used to make batteries like those used in electric vehicles like this LiV Dash (below), which is used at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Credits: top: SME; bottom: NASA/Jim Grossmann



Uranium extracted from uranium ore (above) is used in nuclear medicine and as a highly concentrated energy source used to produce electricity without emission of greenhouse gases (below).

Credits: top: SME; bottom: Photographs in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division



International Creativity Month | Hawai'i Volcano Awareness Month

Sunday

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Saturday

					1 Federal Holiday: New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6 Jan. 6–9, 2027: Geoscience Event: Association for Science Teacher Education International Conference, Science for All, Providence, Rhode Island	7 Old Rock Day	8 Earth's Rotation Day	9
10 Cut Your Energy Costs Day Jan. 10–14, 2027: Geoscience Event: AMS Annual Meeting, American Meteorological Society, Denver, Colorado	11	12	13	14	15 Ed Roy Award for Excellence in K–8 Earth Science Teaching Applications Due	16
17 Kid Inventors' Day	18 Jan. 18–24, 2027: Hawai'i Cave Week Federal Holiday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24 International Day of Education	25	26 International Day of Clean Energy	27	28 International Reducing CO ₂ Emissions Day	29	30
31						

3D Models of Minerals and More!

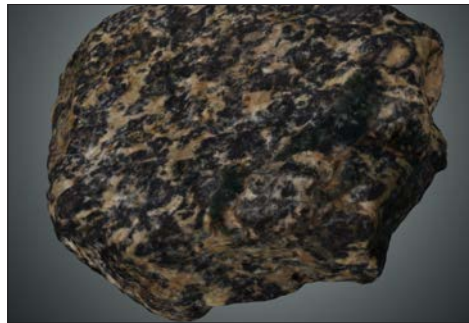
Mineral ores like chromite and magnesite are used to produce the critical minerals chromium and magnesium. Chromium is key for producing stainless steel and magnesium is essential for structural parts of automobiles and electronics. Learn more about these minerals by exploring three-dimensional (3D) models. With 3D scans of actual mineral-containing samples, you can manipulate samples on-screen, carefully observing their properties. With an augmented reality program like a MERGE cube, you can hold a projected sample in your hand as you observe its properties. Start your journey exploring Minerals and More in 3D!



Full learning activity is online at:



<https://bit.ly/ESIP-PRI-3D-models>



3D model of chromite ore.

Credit: 3D Sketchfab model by Société Géologique de France, CC BY-NC-SA 4.0



3D model of soapstone, composed of magnesium-rich talc.

Credit: 3D Sketchfab model by Edurock, CC BY 4.0



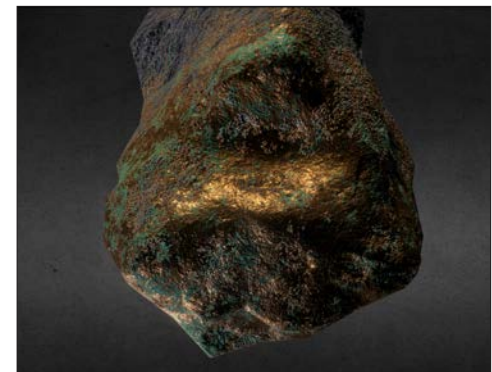
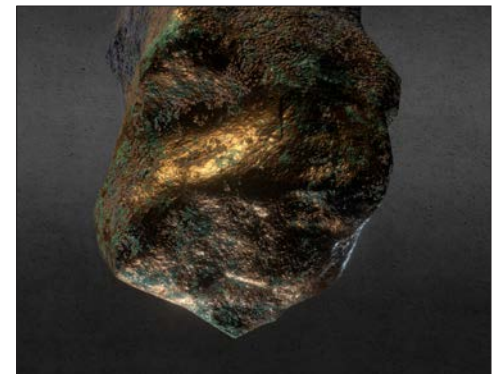
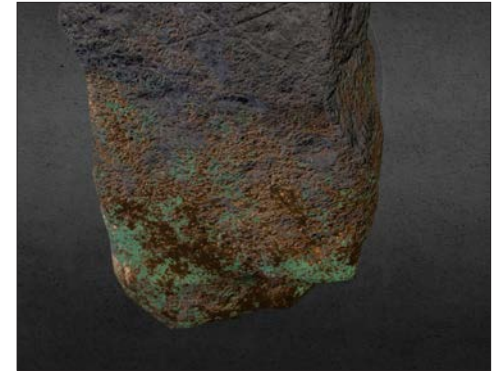
3D digital magnesite model using the MERGE augmented reality program.

Photo credit: CC, Carla McAuliffe



3D model of graphite.

Credit: 3D Sketchfab model by The Watt Institution, CC BY 4.0



Three different views of a Sketchfab 3D digital model of unrefined copper ore.

Credit: 3D Sketchfab Model by aruY, CC BY 4.0

Black History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Groundhog Day World Wetlands Day	3	4	5	6
7 National Periodic Table Day Feb. 7–Mar. 8, 2027: Ramadan (Sundown to Sundown)	8	9	10	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Federal Holiday: Presidents' Day	16	17 National Public Science Day	18 National Battery Day	19	20
21	22 Feb. 21–27, 2027: National Engineers Week	23 Feb. 22–26, 2027: National Invasive Species Awareness Week	24	25	26	27
28 National Science Day						

Power Up with Critical Minerals

Batteries are essential for many aspects of our lives, acting as reliable, portable energy storage to power everything from smartphones and toys to cars and power tools. But have you ever wondered what's inside a battery and where that energy comes from? In this activity, you will explore four different types of batteries, identify the critical minerals that power them, and explore where those minerals originate.



Full learning activity is online at:



<https://bit.ly/USGS-power-up-with-critical-minerals>



The Cerro Maimón copper-gold-silver mine contains chalcopyrite, a copper ore mineral that supplies copper used in components of many technologies, including some parts of the lithium-ion batteries used in cell phones and other products.

Artwork from USGS. Components credits: mine: USGS, public domain; chalcopyrite: Smithsonian, public domain; battery: ©Adobe Stock; cell phone: ©Adobe Stock

Women's History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Mar. 1–7, 2027: Weights and Measures Week	2	3 World Wildlife Day	4 World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development	5	6 World Energy Efficiency Day
7	8 International Women's Day	9 Mar. 9–10, 2027: Eid-al-Fitr (Sundown to Sundown)	10	11 Solar Appreciation Day	12 National Plant a Flower Day	13
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins Mar. 14–20, 2027: National Groundwater Awareness Week	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Global Recycling Day National Biodiesel Day	19	20 Vernal Equinox
21 International Day of Forests World Day for Glaciers	22 World Water Day	23 National Ag (Agriculture) Day World Meteorological Day	24	25	26	27 Earth Hour Day: Switch Off Lights for One Hour, 8:30 PM Local Time
28	29	30	31 International Transgender Day of Visibility			

A Mineral Tour of National Parks

Across the United States, national parks preserve landscapes shaped by powerful Earth processes that concentrate and reveal a wide variety of minerals. In this activity, you will explore the rocks and minerals in five national parks to uncover the range of Earth processes that have shaped the United States.



Full learning activity is online at:



<https://bit.ly/NPS-mineral-tour>



In petrified trees, the wood is slowly replaced by silica minerals from volcanic ash. Other minerals that contain elements such as iron, manganese, and carbon make the petrified wood colorful.

Credits: NPS photos, Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona



Earth Month | National Garden Month

Sunday

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Saturday

				1 National Walking Day	2	3 National Find a Rainbow Day
4	5 National Read a Road Map Day	6	7 Metric System Day	8	9	10
11	12 Big Wind Day	13	14 National Gardening Day Look Up At The Sky Day	15	16	17
18 International Day for Monuments and Sites	19 Apr. 19–23, 2027: Environmental Education Week	20	21 World Creativity and Innovation Day Apr. 21–29, 2027: Passover (Sundown to Sundown)	22 Earth Day AGI's Earth Day Webinar	23	24
25	26 National Richter Scale Day	27	28	29	30 Arbor Day	

Traveling Back in Time through Seafloor Cores

Scientific ocean drilling expeditions retrieve core samples from the ocean floor to reveal Earth's history. These images show just a few of thousands of cores that you can learn to read like pages from Earth's history book. They contain many fossils and minerals. These cores are from the site of the catastrophic asteroid impact off the coast of Mexico. What do you notice about them? In this activity, you'll learn about how minerals and tiny fossils within seafloor cores are described and identified, and what they can tell us.



SCIENTIFIC
OCEAN DRILLING
COORDINATION
OFFICE

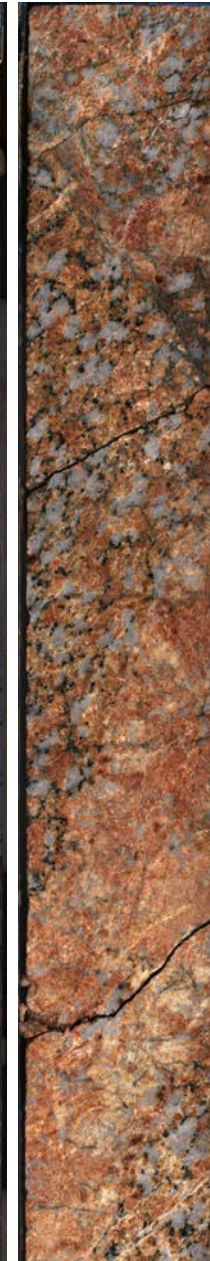
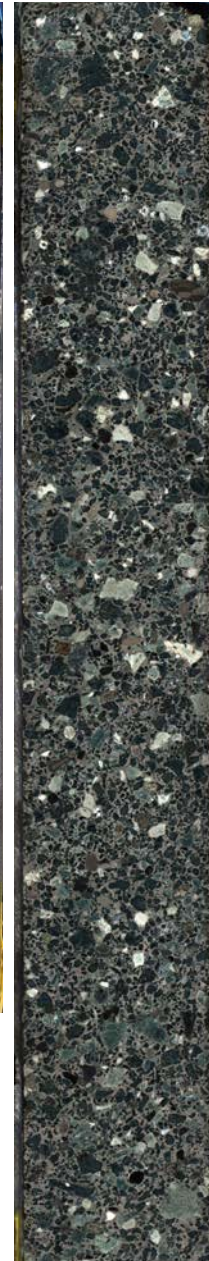
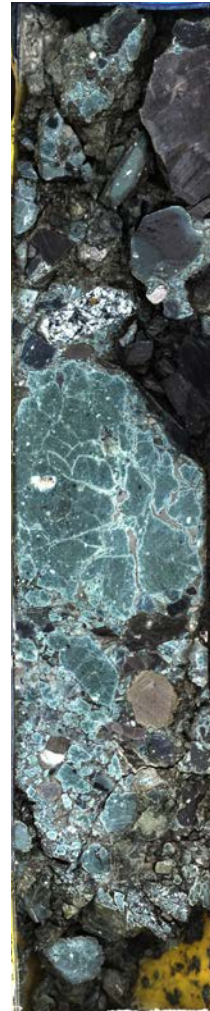
Full learning activity is online at:



A core with an ash layer
at the K/T boundary,
from Leg 171B of the
Ocean Drilling Program.

Credit: Scientific Ocean
Drilling Coordination Office

<https://bit.ly/SODCO-ocean-core-minerals>



Right and above: Five cores collected
off the coast of the Yucatan Peninsula
during Expedition 364 of the
International Ocean Discovery Program.
Credit: IODP Expedition 364 Scientists & PANGAEA

National Inventors Month | American Wetlands Month

Sunday

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2 May 2–8, 2027: International Compost Awareness Week	3 May 3–7, 2027: Air Quality Awareness Week May 3–7, 2027: Teachers' Week	4 National Teachers' Day	5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7 National Space Day	8 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12	13	14 National Public Gardens Day	15 Armed Forces Day
16	17	18 International Astronomy Day International Museum Day	19	20	21 Endangered Species Day	22 International Day for Biological Diversity
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Learn About Composting Day
30	31 Federal Holiday: Memorial Day					

Oil Behavior on Beach Sediments

Beaches are made up of sediments, which can range from fine-grained clay and mud, to coarse-grained sand or gravel. When NOAA responds to an oil spill on a beach, the differences in how oil behaves on various sediments are important. In this activity, you will explore how lighter and heavier oils behave differently when spilled onto fine-grained, medium-grained, and coarse-grained sediment.

Right: Oil washing up on a beach.

Credit: Doug Helton, NOAA/NOS/ORR

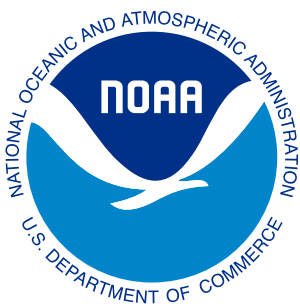


Below, left: An oiled beach north of Blind Pass, Treasure Island, Pinellas County, Florida.

Credit: NOAA Restoration Center, SE region

Below, right: Oiled rocks, Bulacan, Philippines. August 13, 2024.

Credit: NOAA



Full learning activity is online at:



<https://bit.ly/NOAA-oil-and-beach-sediment>

National Great Outdoors Month | National Rivers Month | World Oceans Month

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

World Reef Awareness Day
June 1–7, 2027: Cave Week

2

3

4

5

World Environment Day

6

World Green Roof Day
National Trails Day

7

8

World Oceans Day

9

10

11

World Agriculture Day

12

13

14

Flag Day

15

June 15–16, 2027:
Geoscience Event:
International Conference on
Environmental Sciences (ICES),
Las Vegas, Nevada
Global Wind Day

16

June 16–17, 2027:
Eid al-Adha
(Sundown to Sundown)

17

World Day to Combat
Desertification and Drought
National
Dump the Pump Day

18

Sustainable Gastronomy Day

19

Federal Holiday:
Juneteenth

20

Father's Day

21

Summer Solstice
World Hydrography Day

22

World Rainforest Day

23

24

National Upcycling Day

25

June 25–26, 2027:
Geoscience Event:
7th International Conference
on Biofuels and Bioenergy,
Edinburgh, Scotland

26

27

28

29

30

International Asteroid Day
National Meteor Watch Day

From Puddle to Mineral

Some of the most important minerals powering our modern world, including lithium for batteries and borax for electronics, don't come from digging up solid rock. These minerals are carried by warm water that evaporates, leaving behind mineral deposits. In some cases, the brine is extracted and the water is evaporated to collect the critical mineral. In this activity, students will mimic the process of forming a mineral by working with a brine, observing how changes in concentration and environmental conditions can affect how much mineral is collected.

An aerial view of Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni reveals vivid geometric lithium evaporation ponds carved into the world's largest salt flat.

Credit: Oton Barros, CC BY-SA 2.0

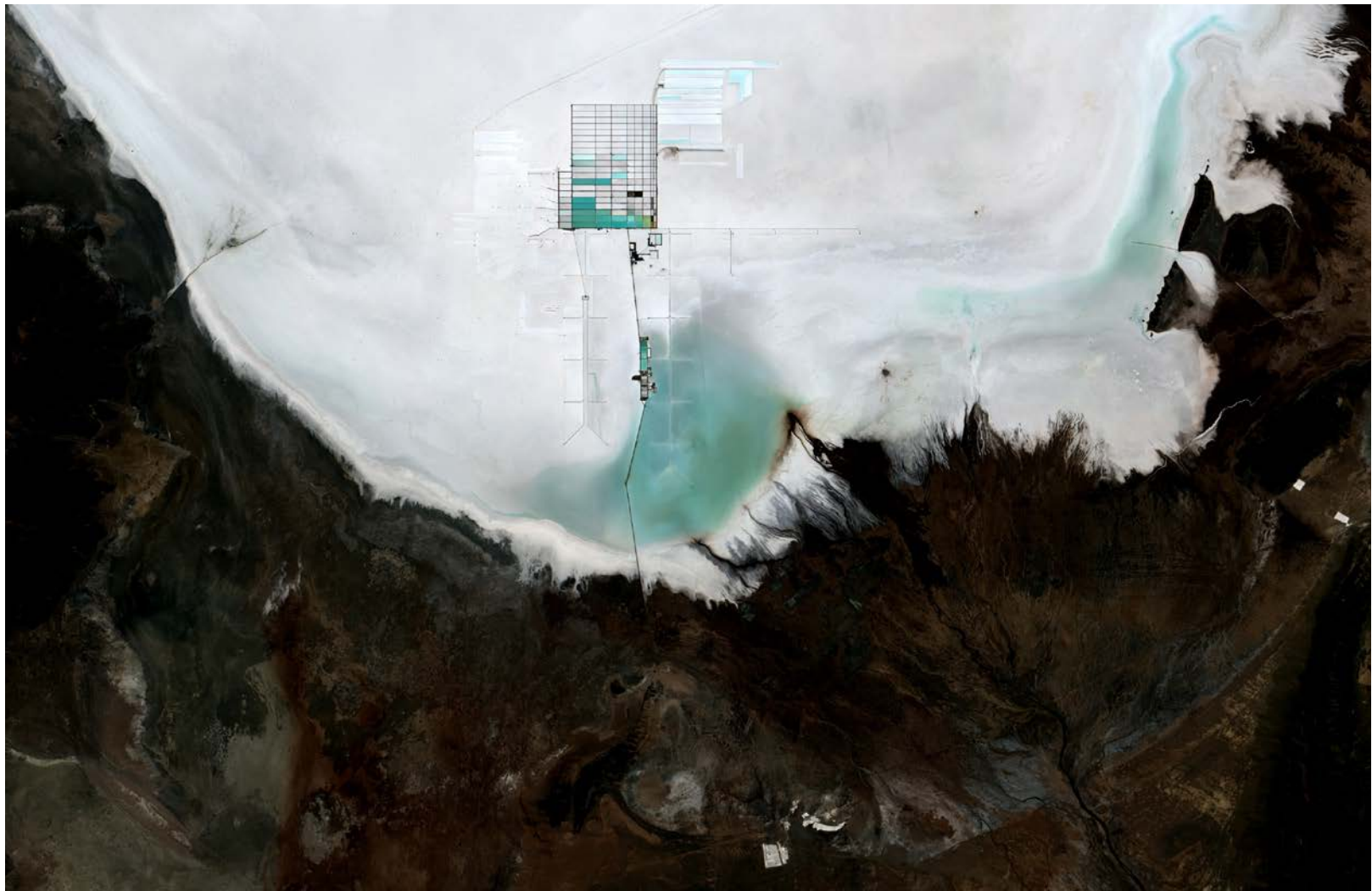


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Full learning activity is online at:



<https://bit.ly/GSA-puddle-to-mineral>



Plastic-Free July

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

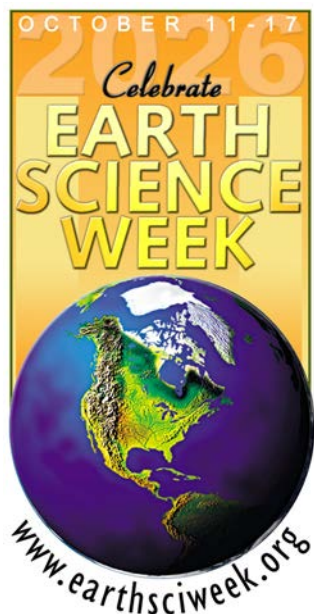
Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1	2	3
4 Federal Holiday: Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 International Rock Day	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Parents' Day	26	27	28 World Nature Conservation Day	29 Rain Day	30	31

WHAT IS EARTH SCIENCE WEEK?



The American Geosciences Institute has organized this annual international event since 1998 to help people better understand and appreciate the earth sciences and to encourage responsible stewardship of the planet. Earth Science Week takes place October 11–17, 2026, celebrating the theme “Critical Minerals for a Thriving Society.”

Visit the Earth Science Week website — www.earthsciweek.org — to learn more about webinars, free resources, the Earth Science Week newsletter, highlights of past Earth Science Weeks, and how you can become involved in this international celebration of the geosciences.

You are invited to help keep the spirit of Earth Science Week alive all year long by posting this calendar in your classroom, office, or home. Whoever you are and wherever you go, you can celebrate earth science!

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www.americangeosciences.org



AGI MEMBER SOCIETIES

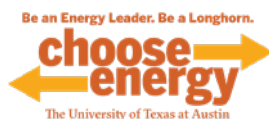
AASP - The Palynological Society
American Association of Geographers
American Association of Petroleum Geologists
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Hydrology
American Institute of Professional Geologists
American Rock Mechanics Association
Association for Women Geoscientists
Association of American State Geologists
Association of Earth Science Editors
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
Clay Minerals Society
Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature of the Americas (CSNA)
Council on Undergraduate Research
Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society
Geo-Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers
Geochemical Society
Geological Association of Canada
The Geological Society of America
Geological Society of London
Geoscience Information Society
History of Earth Sciences Society

International Association for Geoscience Diversity
International Association of Hydrogeologists/ U.S. National Chapter
Karst Waters Institute
Mineralogical Society of America
Mineralogical Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland
National Association of Black Geoscientists
National Association of Geoscience Teachers
National Association of State Boards of Geology
National Cave and Karst Research Institute
National Earth Science Teachers Association
National Speleological Society
Paleontological Research Institution
Paleontological Society
Petroleum History Institute
Seismological Society of America
SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)
Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration
Society of Economic Geologists
Society of Exploration Geophysicists
Society of Mineral Museum Professionals
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
Soil Science Society of America

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK IS SUPPORTED BY



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



EARTH SCIENCE WEEK

October 11–17, 2026

FUTURE DATES

October 10–16, 2027

October 8–14, 2028



Calendar ©2026 American Geosciences Institute
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