

AP® Environmental Science provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. The course draws upon various disciplines, including geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography in order to explore a variety of environmental topics. The equivalent of an introductory college-level science course, AP® Environmental Science prepares students for the AP® exam and for further study in science, health sciences, or engineering. Scientific inquiry skills are embedded in the direct instruction, wherein students learn to ask scientific questions, deconstruct claims, form and test hypotheses, and use logic and evidence to draw conclusions about the concepts. Frequent no- and low-stakes assessments allow students to measure their comprehension and improve their performance as they progress through each activity.

Students also perform hands-on labs and projects that give them insight into the nature of science and help them understand environmental concepts, as well as how evidence can be obtained to support those concepts.

This course has been authorized by the College Board® to use the AP® designation.

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Length: Two Semesters

### **Unit 1: Introduction to AP Environmental Science**

- Science and the Environment
- Energy and Systems
- Introduction to AP Environmental Science Wrap-Up

### **Unit 2: Earth's Physical Systems**

- The Hydrosphere
- The Atmosphere
- The Geosphere
- Earth's Physical Systems Wrap-Up

### **Unit 3: Ecosystem Structure**

- Nature of Ecosystems
- Changes in Ecosystems
- Ecosystems and Biomes
- Ecosystem Structure Wrap-up

### **Unit 4: Population Ecology**

- Population Biology

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- Human Populations
  - Impacts of Population Growth
  - Populations Wrap-up

#### **Unit 5: Semester 1 Wrap-Up**

- Semester 1 Wrap-Up

#### **Unit 6: Land and Water Use**

- Obtaining Earth's Resources
- Recreation and Urban Development
- Sustainable Practices
- Land and Water Use Wrap-Up

#### **Unit 7: Energy Consumption and Resources**

- Energy Concepts and Traditional Sources
- Energy and Sustainability
- Energy Consumption and Resources Wrap-Up

#### **Unit 8: Pollution and Waste Management**

- Pollution and Waste Management
- Impacts of Pollution
- Pollution and Waste Management Wrap-Up

#### **Unit 9: Global Challenges**

- The Global Community
- Global Climate Change
- Global Environmental Policies
- Global Challenges Wrap-Up

#### **Unit 10: Semester 2 Wrap-Up**

- Semester 2 Wrap-Up