

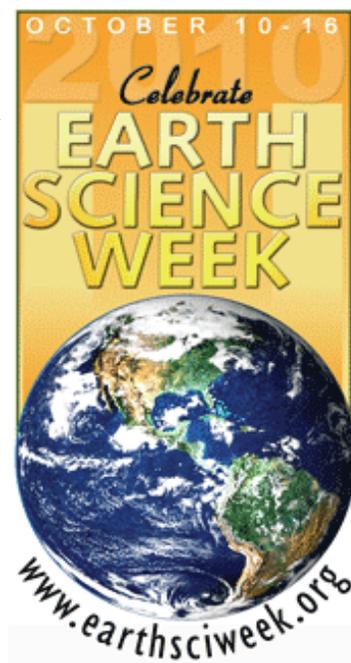


SCIENCE DISSECTED

Exploring Energy: Celebrate Earth Science Week 2010

During the week of October 10-16 the American Geological Institute (AGI) is sponsoring the 11th annual Earth Science Week. Since 1998, this national and international event has been organized by AGI for the purpose of promoting the exploration of our natural world and encouraging interest in the geosciences. AGI has developed an informative and innovative website featuring activities, contests, and other resources in both Spanish and English related to this year's theme, "Exploring Energy." Their objective in choosing this year's theme is to educate the public about Earth's energy resources.

To support teachers in the development and implementation of an ongoing energy unit, AGI has created a toolkit that is available for purchase (\$6.95) on their Earth Science Week website. Materials in the toolkit include: an activity calendar, posters, brochures, bookmarks, fact sheets, postcards, activity sheets, and online information links. The toolkit also includes energy-related resource materials from the USGS, NASA, the US Department of Energy, the National Park Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to the toolkit, the website has teacher and student resource pages suggesting ways to get involved in energy exploration on a local level. The teacher page offers a variety of energy activities as well as other standard-based geoscience related lessons. Each activity has a checklist that informs the teacher what the appropriate grade level is and which standard(s) will be met upon completion. The directions for the activities include background information, a complete materials list, procedures, and questions to ask the students. Also included on the teacher page is a printable yearlong activity calendar that provides the teacher with more activities related to the energy unit as well as fun facts in the field of geoscience. To get students more involved on an individual level, AGI is sponsoring an essay, photography, and visual arts contest in conjunction with Earth Science Week 2010's energy theme.



Another resource that is available to assist teachers in planning for Earth Science Week 2010 is the USGS website which provides some fun activities for the K-8 crowd including several mini-booklets, and an interesting foldable called an "Energy Cootie Catcher." The USGS website also has an ample amount of background information about different forms of energy in the "Educational Resource" section. There is an area where you can search and download a USGS fact sheet on hundreds of different topics and a multimedia gallery for downloading animations, videos, and images.

Happy Earth Science Week everyone and, of course, if you have any problems keeping up with Earth Science Week 2010 News, you can always follow the USGS and AGI on Facebook and Twitter.

Sources and Related Links:

Earth Science Week 2010 Website, <http://www.earthsciweek.org/index.html>

USGS' Earth Science Week Website, http://energy.usgs.gov/energy_esw.html

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