



Figure 6 Earth science includes the study of climate, volcanoes, space, and much more. **Identify** Which Earth science topics are represented here?

Earth Science Science is divided into different areas of study. The kind of science you will learn about this year is Earth science. **Earth science** is the study of Earth and space. Some Earth science topics include rocks, minerals, soil, volcanoes, earthquakes, maps, fossils, mountains, climates, weather, ocean water, and objects in space. Some of these topics are represented in **Figure 6**. Much of the information you'll learn about has been discovered through the ages by people who conducted scientific tests or investigations. However, many unanswered questions remain and much more is waiting to be discovered.

Reading Check What topics do Earth scientists study?

Working in the Lab

Testing, or experimenting, is an important part of science, and if you really want to learn from an investigation, the experiment must be carefully designed. Suppose that after listening to advertisements for several dishwashing liquids, you want to know which brand of dishwashing liquid cleans dishes the best. To find the answer, you would need to do some library or Internet research on dishwashing liquids. After researching, several thoughts might go through your mind. For example, you might hypothesize that brand X will clean dishes better than any other brand. You also might consider that there might be no difference in how well the different liquids clean.

Next, you would design an experiment that tests the validity of your hypotheses. You would need to think about which dishwashing liquids you would test, the amount of each dishwashing liquid you would use, the temperature of the water, the number of dishes you would wash, the kind and amount of grease you would put on the dishes, and the brand of paper towels you would use. All these factors can affect the outcome.

Science online

Topic: Earth Science
Visit earth.msscience.com for Web links to information about the different areas of Earth science.

Activity Prepare a collage that illustrates what you learn.