

The Earth System - Chapter 1 Lesson 1

- **Earth's System** - air, water, land, and life work together as a whole

- Energy drives the Earth's system in two forms

1. in the form of heat from the Sun

2. in the form of heat flowing out of the Earth as it cools

- Earth's System has four main parts or "spheres"

1. Atmosphere (gas or Vapor)

It is the layer that is a mixture of gasses- mostly oxygen and nitrogen - contains the Earth's weather

2. Geosphere (Earth)

Made up of a metal core, a solid middle layer and rocky outer layer

3. Hydrosphere (Water)
Consists of all of Earth's water

4. Biosphere (Life)
It is all parts of the Earth that contain living organisms

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**Feedback- changes in one part of Earth's system
affects another part of Earth's system**

**ex: Melting glaciers affects the geosphere (without
all that ice the ground has become warmer)**

Land is constantly being created and destroyed by competing forces

The Earth's top layer is broken into huge slow moving pieces called plates



Constructive Forces- build up the Earth (two ways)

1. plates collide- the edges of the plates are forced upward, building up mountains and other landmasses

2. volcanoes build up the Earth by spewing lava that hardens into rock

Destructive Forces - wears down or destroys landmasses

- weathering (the process where land is being torn down by ice, rain, wind and changing temperatures)

- erosion (the wearing down and carrying away of land by natural forces such as water, ice, or wind)

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