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Grades K-4

Module 1: Exploring our planet from above

Students view Earth by studying aerial photographs, Space Shuttle photographs, and satellite images. They learn how remote sensing can help them identify ways in which people have changed the physical environment.

- Investigation 1: Does what you see depend on where you are?
- Investigation 2: How can we compare maps with images from space?
- Investigation 3: What can satellites tell us about Earth?
- Investigation 4: How does color help us understand images from space?



Module 2: Water, water almost everywhere?

The presence of water in solid, liquid, and gaseous form is one of the primary characteristics that distinguishes Earth from its neighbors in the solar system. In this module, students compare the amount of land and water on Earth; consider craters as evidence of a lack of water on other planets; define and locate water bodies found on Earth; and identify changes that occur in these water bodies.

- Investigation 1: Why is Earth called the “water planet”?
- Investigation 2: How can we tell if other planets have water?
- Investigation 3: Water bodies, where are they?
- Investigation 4: How do water bodies change over time?

Module 3: Where on Earth do humans live?

This module focuses on Earth as our home and investigates the physical and human landscapes in which we live. Students learn that the world's population is unevenly distributed, and they begin to understand the environmental factors that influence this distribution.

- Investigation 1: What are physical and human-made features?
- Investigation 2: What is there to see from sea to shining sea?
- Investigation 3: How do images help us learn about our planet Earth?
- Investigation 4: Where are the cities?

Module 4: Paths

This module looks at many different kinds of paths and considers why paths are where they are and how they look from space. Paths are usually not arbitrary ways to reach a destination. People and animals make paths that take into account the terrain and other features of the landscape. Rivers, lava, smoke, and other natural phenomena also follow paths. The Space Shuttle and satellites follow paths.

- Investigation 1: Paths—What are they and who makes them?
- Investigation 2: How do paths look from different perspectives?
- Investigation 3: Paths—Usual or unusual?
- Investigation 4: How do disaster paths affect people's lives?