

**Level 5 • Module 1**

Earth Features with Spotlight Lessons on Matter

Lesson Overview

Your student is learning how the Grand Canyon's features formed and how Earth's features change because of natural processes. In Spotlight Lessons on Matter, your student is exploring how matter is described and classified by its physical properties.

Classroom activities for this module include the following:

- Identifying and labeling layers of the Grand Canyon to learn about past environments
- Investigating how weathering and erosion change Earth's surface
- Using maps to research land features near canyons to understand how canyons form
- Studying dams to learn how humans harness energy and change Earth's features
- Classifying materials by whether they are soluble in water

Conversation Starters

Support your student's learning with these talking points:

- Talk about land and water features in your area or places you have visited.
- Notice how the landscape changes after natural events, such as a rainstorm, and look for evidence of weathering or erosion.
- Discuss different ways that people have changed the landscape to meet their needs for transportation or housing.
- Classify objects and materials found at home by their properties.

Activities

Have fun with these related activities at home:

- Start a rock collection and use a field guide to help classify the rocks.
- On a walk or drive, have your student describe land and water features observed.
- Visit a nearby dam or research dams online, and discuss the dam's purpose.
- Plan a visit to a landform or water feature. Take pictures or draw sketches to capture details.
- Investigate materials at home to see if they are soluble in water.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit your local library or use an online library to explore topics related to the module, such as renewable and nonrenewable resources, the Colorado River, national parks, and various materials and their properties.



See short videos about the Grand Canyon at <https://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/photosmultimedia/grand-canyon-in-depth.htm>.

Learn more about fossils at the Grand Canyon at <https://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/nature/fossils.htm>.