Universe Cycle

The Search for Our Beginnings

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
Universe (1 week)	Comparing Distance in Space	Light in the Universe	Stars and Constellations	Components of Galaxies	Comparing Galaxies	Components of the Universe	Astronomy and Astrology
Solar System (1 week)	Comparing Planets	Surface of the Moon	Identifying Planets	Earth Movements	Craters	Comparing Planets	Movement of the Earth
Earth (1 week)	Modeling the Earth	Rotation of the Earth	Examining the Earth's Surface	Comparing Landforms	Earth/Moon System	Forces of Erosion	Landform Evolution
Geography (1 week)	Land and Water	Learning Geographic Relief	Making Maps	Use of Maps	Interpretations of Maps	Mapping Relief	Uses of Maps

Universe at a Glance

The Universe Cycle helps explain how the Universe and the Solar System were initially formed. Students learn that there are many theories on how the Universe was created. Atoms of hydrogen (the simplest element) probably were floating around each other (either with a bang or a whimper) and formed stars. Star formation led the way for planet formation (either hot or cold). Once planets, like those in our solar system formed, each planet then evolved independently. The characteristics of our planets depend on how close we are to the Sun; how fast it spins; and how their internal engines work.

In the Classroom

Hands-on activities teach studenst about the acts and fantasies of the Universe. They look at the Universe and its components like galaxies or nebulas. Students then look at our Solar System. They trace movements and compare and contrast the planets. Students, examine the Earth's relationship with the Moon and the entire Solar System. Geographic locations, reading maps, and learning how to plot data are also explored.