

Earth and Space Science Professions

When you are grown up and have a job, what will your workplace be like?

What if it is in a different country?

Or only open at night?

Many careers in the geosciences, or Earth Sciences, can take you to places that aren't your typical office!

The main branches of geoscience include geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy.

As with all branches, geoscientists are usually specialized in one area.

For example, a paleontologist studies life from the past through evidence within the Earth, like fossils.

Another type of geoscientist, a volcanologist, is a type of geologist who studies the formation and eruption of volcanoes.

Volcanologists also study how particles from within volcanoes circulate in the air; they usually have some expertise in meteorology as well.

Meteorology is the study of climate and weather.

Do you know the difference between climate and weather?

Climate is the weather conditions over an area for a long period of time, like years,

where weather is the conditions over a short period of time, like days.

You've probably seen meteorologists on TV reporting and predicting the weather,

but many meteorologists work off-camera, for places like research institutes and for the military.

If you love the ocean, you might consider a profession in oceanography.

Oceanographers study everything from the sea floor to ocean water composition, currents, and ocean life.

If stargazing is your passion, you might be a good fit as an astronomer.

Many astronomers work for research institutes, gathering information about our universe to share with the world.

One organization, SETI, is devoted to the search for extraterrestrial life!

Whichever profession in the geosciences you choose, you just might end up with an office that most can only dream about!
