



CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY: UNDERSTANDING THE EARTH SYSTEM

OBJECTIVES: Students will:

- ✚ Identify the 4 major parts of the Earth system;
- ✚ Understand and analyze how the different spheres relate to each other;
- ✚ Identify the properties of each sphere or subsystem;
- ✚ Interpret and analyze the interactions between different parts of the Earth system;

MATERIALS:

- ✚ Student Sheets
- ✚ Paper and pencil

PROCEDURE:

1. Briefly review the concepts from the activity: **A BALANCED TANGLE: UNDERSTANDING SYSTEMS.**
2. Explain that this new activity will incorporate previously learned concepts into an analysis of the Earth system.
3. Read and discuss the information on page 2 with the class. Be sure that students understand what each of the "spheres" are and how they relate to the whole. Refer back to the graphic organizer from the first activity.
3. Divide students into groups of 2-3. Instruct them to work through the exercises in their activity sheet together and to record their answers in their science notebooks.
4. Stop the class at your discretion to discuss their progress and to answer any questions they may have.
5. When students have completed the activities regroup the class and discuss their analyses.

