Four Major Areas of Earth Science:

**Astronomy** – Study of objects beyond the Earth’s atmosphere

**Meteorology** – Study of the forces and processes that cause the atmosphere to change to produce weather

**Geology** – Study of the materials that make up Earth and the processes that form and change these materials

**Oceanography** – The study of the Earth’s oceans

Four Main Earth Systems:

**Lithosphere** – *Outer shell* of the planet and includes the crust (where we live!) and the top portion of the layer right beneath, the mantle.

**Hydrosphere** – *Water* in the Earth’s oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, glaciers, and atmosphere

**Atmosphere** – *Gas* that surrounds our planet

**Biosphere** – All *organisms* on the Earth as well as the *environments* in which they live