



# Strategies for Engaging with Teach the Earth Online Resources

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## Finding what you need

**Teach the Earth Portal:** There are three main ways to find Earth education resources.

- Browse **key resources**, like workshops & career development
- If you know what you're looking for, you can **search all parts** of Teach the Earth
- Or, **explore by theme**. The portal also provides a link to the geoscience education community where you can join the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) or contribute your own activities.

**Browse Key Resources:** Materials on Teach the Earth are subdivided into distinct types of resources. Clicking on a resource type will produce a pop-up with more specific places to find what you need.

**Search:** Search across the entire TTE portal, or limit your search to peer reviewed activities, course descriptions and syllabi, or the community of contributors and Earth Educators:

**Explore Themes:** Find sites and activities related to specific topics, teaching ideas, and other themes within the Geosciences. Clicking on a topic in this section of the portal opens a pop-up, with resources, community and search links.

## Refining what you find

**Refining your portal search:** In a search for materials (e.g., "plate tectonics"), it is possible to refine further by type of material (Activity), subject (Geoscience), etc.

Searches can be further refined using the navigation menus along the right side, showing, in the example, specific types of activities, and specific geoscience subdisciplines.

**Teach the Earth Themes:** From the "Explore Themes" portion of the portal, you will find Key Resources – websites with your chosen theme, a link to join the community – discussions and list-serves, and a search of all related activities within Teach the Earth.

**Exploring sites from pop-ups:** Clicking on a link in a pop-up takes you to a website within Teach the Earth focused on the topic you chose. The navigation on the left allows you to discover the areas of the site, including teaching activities and links to other materials. You can refine your activity search by specific subject or resource type using the menus to the right of the activities. In topical sites, Exemplary Activities are promoted.

## Contributing activities that review well

**The Review Process:** Each activity on Teach the Earth is evaluated by two reviewers for **five review criteria** (shown in the bullets at left) using a rubric. Reviews are organized by NAGT appointed editors from the community and conducted online, usually during a "Review Camp" on the Sunday prior to the annual Earth Educators' Rendezvous.

**Reviewed activities** are designated in one of four categories:

- **Exemplary:** the best of the best, requiring that 3 of 5 review elements ranked exemplary
- **Pass:** reviewed favorably but require modifications to rise to exemplary (authors may modify to rank exemplary)
- **Keep:** reviewed but have significant limitations or deficiencies; activities remain in the database but do not appear in search results
- **Deaccession:** activities are removed, usually for violating scientific integrity expectations or plagiarism

**The Review Rubric** generates a numeric score that quantifies the strengths and weaknesses of each activity. Crafted by geoscientists and pedagogy experts to capture and reward effective activities, the rubric is flexible enough to assess Teach the Earth activities from across subdisciplines and teaching environments (e.g., classroom, lab, online, and field). Anyone can access the rubric and it provides a guide for potential authors so that they can create exemplary activities that are effective in their own classes and have the potential to be shared widely.

**Contribute your own activity!** Teach the Earth provides a venue for you to share successful teaching activities. Like the rubric, the "Contribute Activity" form provides a guide for producing exemplary teaching materials to share on Teach the Earth. The form guides you to align goals and objectives with topics and courses from across the geoscience spectrum. Your contributed resources can boost your effectiveness as well as that of colleagues beyond your own institution!