

Unit 1: Studying the Earth Project

The project evaluates your ability to observe, collect data, form a hypothesis, analyze results, and present your findings clearly. You will be graded across key areas, including scientific observations, data collection, reasoning, organization, and written communication. Each criterion is designed to reflect how well you understand and apply Earth science concepts while following proper scientific and presentation practices. Your final score will be out of 20 points.

Grading Rubric: Unit 1 - Studying the Earth Project (20 Points)				
Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Observations & Hypothesis (5 pts)	(5 pts) 5 detailed observations using senses; hypotheses clearly based on them.	(4 pts) 3–4 clear observations; hypothesis mostly linked to observations.	(2 pts) 2 basic observations; hypothesis partially linked to observations.	(1 pt) 1. Basic observations; hypothesis missing or not based on observations.
Data Collection (5 pts)	(5 pts) contains both qualitative and quantitative data and is thorough, understandable, and well-structured.	(3 pts) Mostly complete and organized; includes one data type with minor gaps.	(2 pts) Some data are missing or disorganized; some data are missing.	(1 pt) Few, unclear, or poorly organized observations; both data are also missing.
Analysis & Reflection (4 pts)	(4 pts) All questions answered clearly with deep scientific reasoning.	(3 pts) Most questions answered with some scientific understanding	(2 pts) Some questions answered; limited detail.	(1 pt) Few questions answered; lacks scientific reasoning.
Format & Organization (2 pts)	(2 pts) All four sections are clearly labeled (Objective, Hypothesis, Data, and Analysis) and easy to identify.	(1.5 pts) Three sections are clearly labeled; one is unclear or missing.	(1 pt) Two sections labeled; others unclear or missing.	(0 pts) One or no sections labeled.
Grammar & Presentation (2 pts)	(2 pts) The writing is clear, well-edited, and free from errors.	(1 pt) Few grammar/spelling errors; mostly clear writing.	(0.5 pt) Several grammar issues; writing needs revision.	(0 pts) Frequent grammar errors; writing unclear or rushed.
Citations (2 pts)	(2 pt) All sources are correctly cited in MLA format; includes a complete Works Cited or References page	(1 pt) Most sources are cited correctly; there are minor formatting errors, and a Works Cited/References page is included.	(0.5 pt) Some sources are cited; there are several formatting or content errors. The Works Cited/References page is incomplete.	(0 pts) No citations provided

Plagiarism Policy Reminder

American High School upholds the highest standards of academic integrity and expects all students to demonstrate honesty and responsibility in their academic work. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of our school community, requiring students to complete their own work and appropriately acknowledge the ideas and words of others.

This expectation also includes the responsible use of technology. The excessive or inappropriate use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to complete assignments, tests, or projects—in place of a student's own effort—is considered a violation of the school's academic integrity policy.

Any instance of plagiarism—defined as presenting another person's work, ideas, or expressions as one's own—is a serious violation of school policy. Students found in violation of the plagiarism policy will face disciplinary consequences.

Students are encouraged to review the full policy to ensure a clear understanding of expectations and consequences.

Click [here](#) to read the updated Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Policy.