

GLOBAL SCIENCE LITERACY (GSL): AN EARTH SYSTEMS VIEW

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Earth Systems Education (ESE) provides a basis for an international science curriculum and a global definition of science literacy (GSL). The Earth System is the organizing theme for integrated science curricula for elementary through high schools. Children of all nations experience weather, flowing streams, rock materials. A science curriculum organized around the student's natural environment provides a common subject for study in all cultures. Science methodology provides school children with a universal method of communication and problem solving. Thus using the Earth System provides science curricula with a crucial role among other curricular subjects in helping students achieve a global perspective. Global Science Literacy (GSL) is based on efforts in the science and the science education communities. The science community, through the report of the Earth System Science Committee, provided a unified conceptual structure of the Earth as a system of interacting subsystems. The science education community emphasized the need to modernize and integrate the science curriculum and the approaches used to teach through reports such as that of the National Research Councils' committee on establishing National Science Standards. Science educators can have a crucial role in developing a world citizenry supportive of world peace and sustainable development of its resources for the benefit of all people. We are in the process of developing a GSL monograph with contributions from more than six countries to assist educators in reaching this goal.