



MEASURING THE
EARTH
THE SCIENCE OF
GEODESY

Geodesy is the science of measuring Earth's size, shape, orientation in space, and gravity field. Geodesy is one of the oldest sciences, dating back to ancient Greece, and has many applications in modern society. Researchers use high-precision measurements to learn about Earth and how it changes over time. The most familiar geodetic instrument is the Global Positioning System (GPS), the U.S. component of a global navigation satellite system (GNSS).

Photo: Royal Society Range, Antarctica by Annie Zaino, UNAVCO



a monthly series on the how and why of geodesy