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This study guide contains information included in the curriculum of the geography course taught to foreign students, who would like to be enrolled in Natural sciences and study at the preparatory department of Southern Federal University. The topics cover many issues such as geography as a science, the place of Earth in the Universe, the structure of the planet, the unique properties, relationships and features of its shells, evolution and modern understanding of the purpose of the discipline of regional studies, as well as some issues of the geography of Russia and the consequences of human impact on the geographical shell. The study guide contains exercises, several check tests and individual tasks. It is for students who are going to choose undergraduate and graduate programs to study Earth Sciences, Life Sciences and some other fields related to Earth. This edition has been prepared for English-speaking entrants, and is an updated and modified translation of the authors' study guide, published earlier.

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