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This assumes some level of prerequisite knowledge of physics and mathematics at the high school level (i.e., calculus). Background knowledge is briefly covered in Appendixes B and C for physics and maths respectively, and links to more in depth coverage is included.

But one question remains unanswered. Why should one learn about the tides, and if one knows enough about them, what reason is there to understand how they are predicted? It could be argued that this knowledge is intrinsically interesting, but I think a better reason is that the tides are at the intersection of so many different domains and subjects, from geography to mathematics