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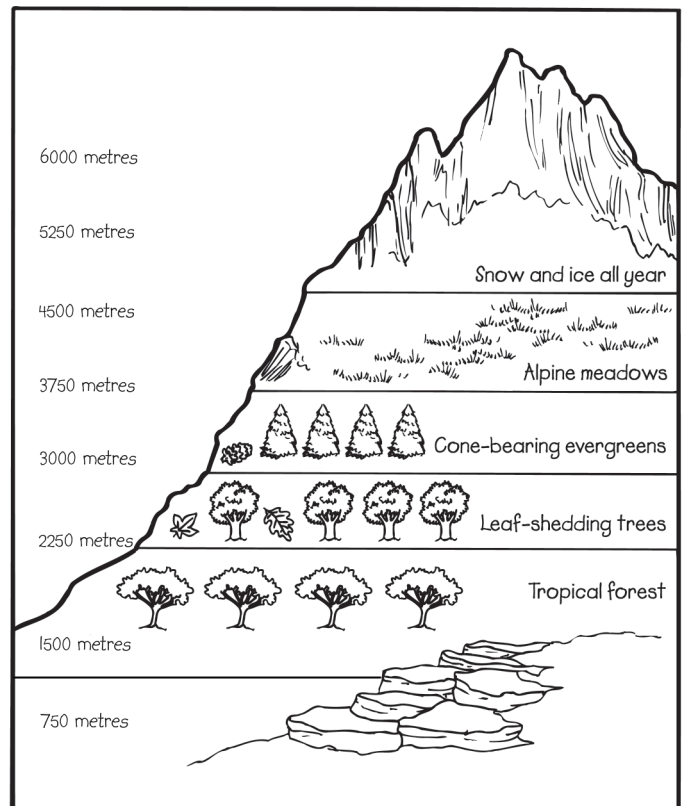
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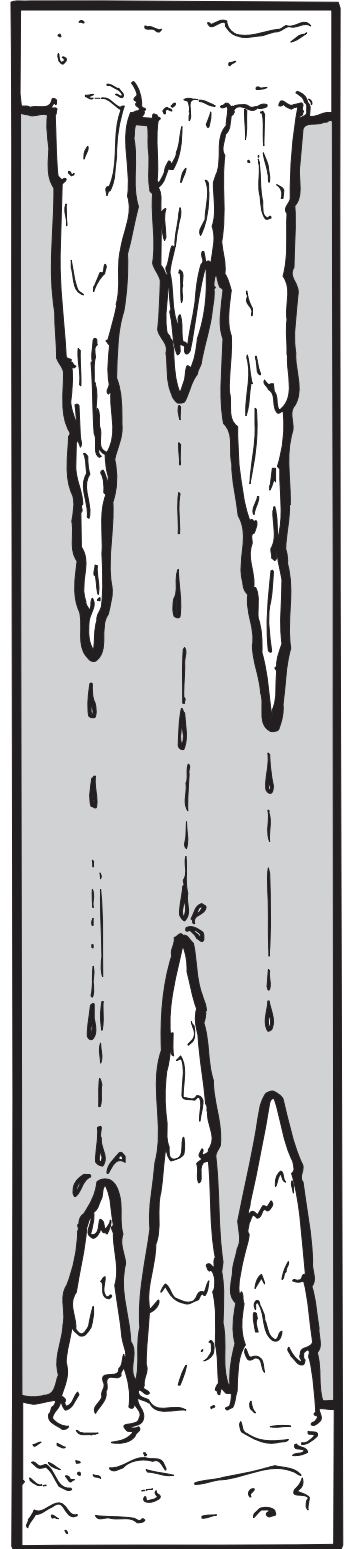


Introduction: Why Earth?

Deserts, rainforests, islands, mountains, caverns and canyons – the Earth is home to a wide variety of environments. And with earthquakes, volcanoes and avalanches, there is always something going on! Through the geology and geography activities in this book, your students will learn about the fascinating world around them while practising writing, reading, research, performance and speaking skills. They'll interview an explorer, create Earth ABC books, make their own maps and much more. Most of the activities can be simplified for younger students or extended for upper grades.

Exciting Earth! is divided into four parts and a resource section. Through a variety of activities, **Hands-On Discoveries** will help answer questions such as 'What's under the Earth's crust?' and 'What is the difference between a stalactite and a stalagmite?' Reproducible sheets with a special globe icon have directions written specifically for the children. This section also features art activities, such as 'Naming Jewels' in which the children can explore their creativity.

Non-Fiction Book Links feature speaking, writing and reporting activities based on non-fiction resources. Many activities are accompanied by helpful handouts, which will lead the children through the research procedure. When research is required, you have the option of letting children look for the facts needed in your classroom, the school or local library or on the Internet. Or use the 'Super-Duper Fact Cards' located in the resource section at the back of this book. These cards list information for 16 Earth-related subjects. You can duplicate the cards onto neon-coloured paper, laminate and cut them out. Then store the cards in a box for children to choose from when doing their research. These cards also provide an opportunity for younger children to participate in research projects. The information is available to them on easy-to-read cards.

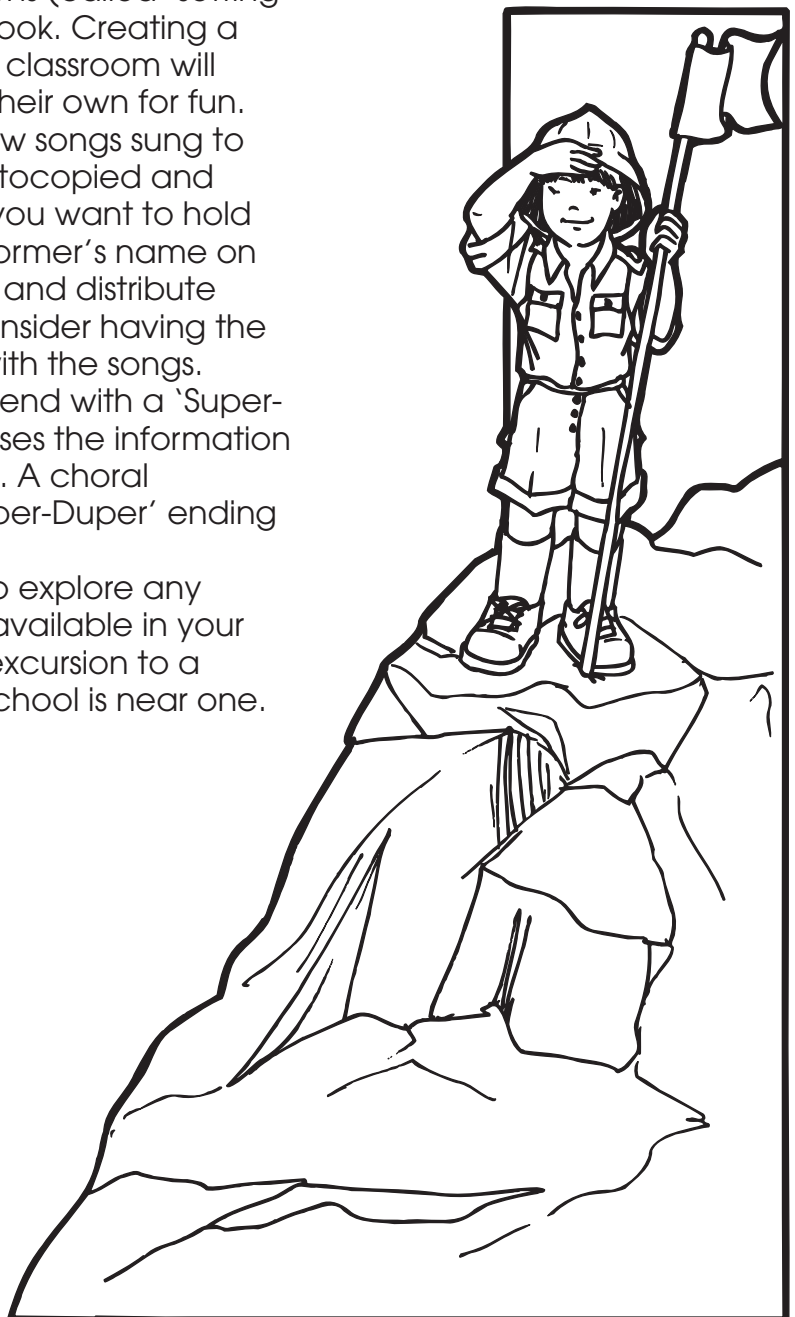


The **Fiction Book Links** section uses chapter books and storybooks to introduce information about the Earth. This section's activities, projects and language extensions help children connect with the world around them. Each 'Link' also includes a tongue twister. Challenge children to create their own twisters from the Earth facts and words they've learned. Also included in this section are decorating suggestions (called 'setting the stage') for each particular book. Creating a book-friendly environment in the classroom will encourage children to read on their own for fun.

It's Show Time! presents new songs sung to old tunes. The songs can be photocopied and given to the children to learn. If you want to hold a performance, write each performer's name on the reproducible program page and distribute the copies to your audience. Consider having the children make costumes to go with the songs.

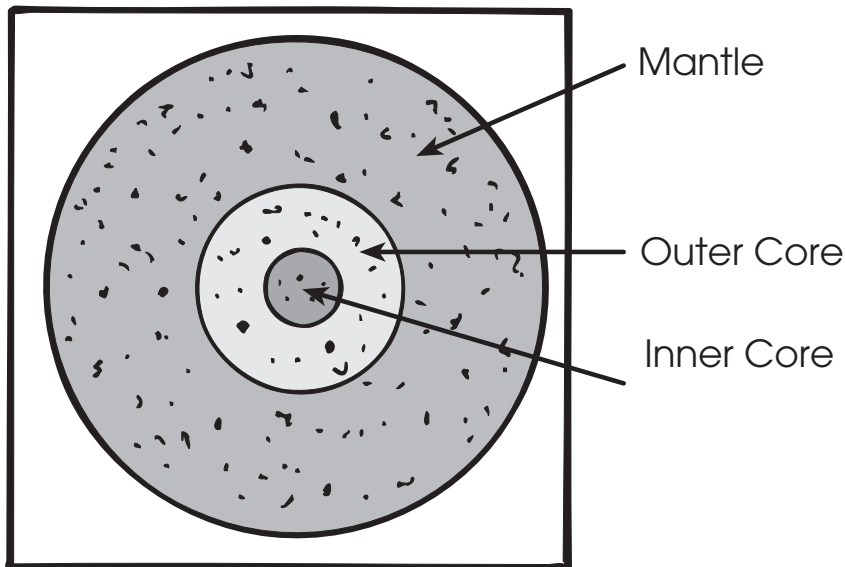
Three sections in this book end with a 'Super-Duper Project', an activity that uses the information children have learned in the unit. A choral performance is one possible 'Super-Duper' ending for the 'It's Show Time!' section.

This unit is a perfect time to explore any environment resources that are available in your area. For instance, consider an excursion to a famous cave or cavern, if your school is near one.



All about Earth

Planet Earth is the third planet from the sun. It has four layers: the inner core, the outer core, the mantle and the crust.



Scientists believe that Earth's inner core is made of solid iron and nickel. The inner core is hot – about 50 times as hot as boiling water.

The outer core surrounds the inner core. Scientists believe that the outer core is also made of iron and nickel, but the outer core is hot liquid instead of hot solid.

The mantle is around the outer core. It is mostly solid, but some of the outer mantle is made of melted rock.

The crust is outside of the mantle. The crust is made of rock and soil. It is the thinnest layer of the Earth.



All about Earth

The Earth's crust has two parts. One part is under the ocean. This is called the oceanic crust. It makes up the ocean floor. The other part is called the continental crust. Oceanic crust that runs under the continental crust forms the land above sea level.



The crust is divided into pieces called plates. There are seven major plates and many smaller plates. The plates curve to fit Earth's shape. They are made of crust and outer mantle. The plates move because they float on top of the partially melted rock that makes up the mantle. Under the oceans, the plates are about 65 kilometres thick. Under the continents, they are about 95 kilometres thick.

