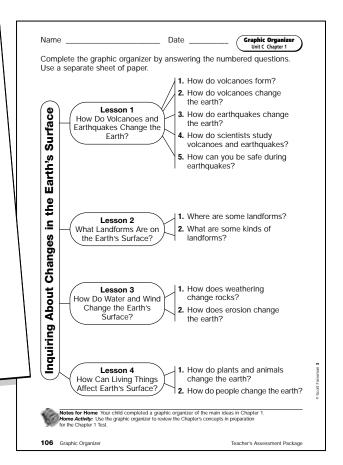
Dear Family:

Your child's class is learning about the constantly changing surface of the earth. Natural processes such as weathering and erosion by water, ice, and wind can wear down mountains over the course of time.



The terms shown on the right are the vocabulary words your child will be using in class. By practicing he or she should be able to pronounce the words and explain what the terms mean.

Home Projects

Here are some projects that will help your child understand the most important concepts about the earthThe projects are easy, fast, and fun.

Activity

Show how wind causes erosion. Place a box lid on a flat surface. Fill a small, shallow container with dry rice (the lid of a peanut butter jar would work fine). Place this in the center of the box lid. Ask your child to blow at the rice, hard enough to blow the rice into the box lid. Discuss with your child what happened.

Vocabulary

earthquake erosion erupt glacier landform lava magma plain plateau volcano weathering

Name	Date	

Ask your child to explain how wind can move rocks and soil.

Now place your fingers down on the rice container. Explain that your fingers are pretend tree trunks. Ask your child to blow at the rice again. What happens?

Discuss how trees help prevent rocks and soil from being blown away.

Take an "erosion walk" with your child, looking for evidence of forces that are changing the earth's surface. Look for tree roots causing cracks in a sidewalk, or signs of weathering on the outside of an old building. Discuss the forces at work (wind, rain, gravity, living things). If you have the opportunity to drive on a highway, point out places where people have cut through the rocks to build the road.

Armchair Exploration

Ask your child about the various landforms in your neighborhood. Are there any hills and valleys? Lakes or cliffs? Look for landforms in picture albums and magazines. Talk about what the land was like in the place where you grew up and how it was similar or different to your neighborhood.

Visit the Web

You and your child may enjoy visiting the following websites.

Volcanoworld's Kids' Door

@volcano.und.nodak.edu/vwdocs/kids

Suggested Reading

Your child may enjoy the following topic-related literature.

How to Dig a Hole to the Other Side of the World, by Faith McNulty. What a child might expect to find by drilling through the earth. (Harper Trophy, ISBN 0-06-443218-1)

Earth-Friendly Outdoor Fun by George Pfiffner. Games and science projects. (John Wiley, ISBN 0-471-14113-5)

Volcano and Earthquake by Susanna Van Rose. Photos and illustrations. (A. Knopf, ISBN 0-679-81685-2)