

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.

Name _____ Date _____ **Graphic Organizer**
 Unit C Chapter 1

Complete the graphic organizer by answering the numbered questions. Use a separate sheet of paper.

Inquiring About Changes in the Earth's Surface

- Lesson 1**
 How Do Volcanoes and Earthquakes Change the Earth?
 - How do volcanoes form?
 - How do volcanoes change the earth?
 - How do earthquakes change the earth?
 - How do scientists study volcanoes and earthquakes?
 - How can you be safe during earthquakes?
- Lesson 2**
 What Landforms Are on the Earth's Surface?
 - Where are some landforms?
 - What are some kinds of landforms?
- Lesson 3**
 How Do Water and Wind Change the Earth's Surface?
 - How does weathering change rocks?
 - How does erosion change the earth?
- Lesson 4**
 How Can Living Things Affect Earth's Surface?
 - How do plants and animals change the earth?
 - How do people change the earth?

Notes for Home Your child completed a graphic organizer of the main ideas in Chapter 1.
Home Activity: Use the graphic organizer to review the Chapter's concepts in preparation for the Chapter 1 Test.

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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 earth. The 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](http://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)