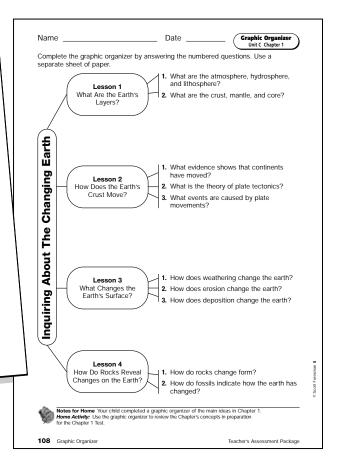
Dear Family:

Your child's class is in the process of learning about the changing earth. The earth is constantly changing, and knowing about its processes will help your child to better understand our planet's past and to better care for its future.



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 Project

Here is a project that will help your child understand the most important concepts about the earth. The project is easy, fast, and fun.

Activity

Show your child the map of the world on the following page. Ask him or her to carefully cut out each continent. Ask your child if the pieces might fit together like a puzzle; then help with assembly. Encourage him or her to discuss why the pieces fit together so well and what meaning that has for our planet. Perhaps the planet has changed over many years. What kinds of events might have caused this change?

Vocabulary

igneous rock sedimentary rock metamorphic rock rock cycle erosion weathering deposition plate tectonics plate hydrosphere atmosphere lithosphere crust mantle core mineral



Suggested Reading

Your child may enjoy the following topic-related literature.

Hurricanes: Earth's Biggest Storms by Patricia Lauber (Scholastic, ISBN 0-590-47407-3)

Discover Volcanoes and Earthquakes by Martin F.J. Flower. A discussion of the characteristics of volcanoes and earthquakes and their causes. (HTS Books, ISBN 1-56674-031-2)

Our Planet Earth by Isaac Asimov. A description of the earth as a planet. (Gareth Stevens Publishing, ISBN 0-8368-1194-1)

Rocks Tell Stories by Sidney Horenstein. An explanation of how rocks form and change over time. (The Milbrook Press, ISBN 1-56294-238-7)