

**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.

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 The Changing Earth**

- Lesson 1**  
 What Are the Earth's Layers?  
 1. What are the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere?  
 2. What are the crust, mantle, and core?
- Lesson 2**  
 How Does the Earth's Crust Move?  
 1. What evidence shows that continents have moved?  
 2. What is the theory of plate tectonics?  
 3. What events are caused by plate movements?
- Lesson 3**  
 What Changes the Earth's Surface?  
 1. How does weathering change the earth?  
 2. How does erosion change the earth?  
 3. How does deposition change the earth?
- Lesson 4**  
 How Do Rocks Reveal Changes on the Earth?  
 1. How do rocks change form?  
 2. How do fossils indicate how the earth has changed?

**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 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)