



# OUR EARTH

AUTHOR: ANNE ROCKWELL

ILLUSTRATOR: ANNE ROCKWELL

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Our Earth](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

This book is a simple introduction to geography, and explains how the earth was shaped, how islands are born from volcanoes, and how gushing springs affect rivers. Dive beneath the oceans and soar above the clouds in this exploration of Earth.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

"I was born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1934 but spent much of my childhood traveling throughout the United States. From the farmlands of northern Mississippi where my grandparents lived, to the magnificent landscape of the American Southwest, I learned to look, the most important skill an artist can develop. People used to say I was born reading. I can't remember when I learned to draw and paint, but I never dreamed of becoming anything but an artist. We moved to Old Greenwich, Connecticut where we could walk and sail and sketch by the beach, feed birds, have a garden and a dog. I have worked with my husband and my daughter, Lizzy, and even my granddaughter, who have all illustrated many of my books. It's thrilling to see these gifts continuing through generations of the family! ([www.annerockwell.com](http://www.annerockwell.com))

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

*Use these prompts before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:*

- (cover) I wonder what this story might be about. Any guesses?
- Is it really possible to lie on top of the world?
- (title page) Let's identify the animals on the title page.
- (title page) Notice that author and illustrator are the same person.

### DURING THE STORY

*Use these prompts while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:*

- (p. 2) If you know what "globe" means, put your hand on your knee. (share answers)

## OUR EARTH

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Geography
- Animals
- Biomes

### Tips for every book!

#### POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

#### DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"Why do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

- (p. 4) How do you think the earth has changed? This book might give us some ideas.
- (p. 5) Does anyone know what kind of dinosaurs these are? Put your hand on top of your head if you do. (share answers)
- (p. 6) Is a sheet of ice like a sheet on your bed? What does the author mean by “sheets of ...ice”?
- (p. 14) What are these animals called?
- (p. 15) What keeps the fields so green?

## AFTER READING

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*Use these prompts after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:*

- Do you think this book is fiction or non-fiction?
- Did the book turn out to be what you thought it would be when you looked at the cover?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

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- (p. 2) Make a globe with your arms.
- (p. 3) If you were outside in the North Pole or the South Pole, show me how you would feel. (brrr!)
- (p. 16) What do monkeys sound like?

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- (p. 16) Divide class into two groups: monkeys and birds. Rehearse their animals' sound. On the count of three, have students make the sound that their animal would make in the rain forest. What must the rain forest sound like?
- Divide class into three groups. Have each group discuss where on the globe they think one of these is: Group 1 - North Pole; Group 2 – continents; Group 3 – oceans; Group 4 – South Pole. Then bring up a representative from each group to point to the location of their assignment.

## SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

### 1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

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- Go back through the book and have students describe a continent, an island, a canyon, etc. based on what they remember hearing during the reading.
- What animals live in the different environments presented in the book?
- What does it mean that the earth is our home?

### Suggested Optional Activity:

- Draw a picture of where water flows on the earth: tops of mountains to streams to rivers to ocean.

### 2. WRITING ACTIVITY

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- Choose one animal shown in the book. Write its name and what environment it lives in, then draw a picture of it.

### 3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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- Using a classroom globe, have each student in the small group find an island, a continent, an ocean and then explain how he/she figured that out.

## COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS-ELA-RI.K.1, K.2, K.4, K.5, K.6, K.7, K.10