



EARTH! My First 4.54 Billion Years

Written by Stacy McAnulty, Illustrated by David Litchfield

EARTH! My First 4.54 Billion Years is a wonderful way to celebrate Earth Day. There are lots of fun facts in this story that are told from the perspective of the Earth. Earth begins with her childhood and takes the reader through a humorous journey of how she is doing today. Engaging story and illustrations kids will love.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story is about?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder what that the earth is smiling about?

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

- planet – a large, round object in space that travels around a star (such as the sun)
- solar system – our sun and the planets that move around it
- Milky Way – a broad band of light that can be seen in the night sky and that is caused by the light of a very large number of faint stars
- continents – huge pieces of land sometimes separated by water
- Homo sapiens – the species of human beings that exists today
- asteroid – any one of thousands of small planets that circle around the sun
- Ice Age – a time in the distant past when a large part of the world was covered with ice

After: Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How many planets are between the Earth and the sun?
- How many siblings (other planets) does Earth have in the solar system?
- How many planets are in the Milky Way?
- What is Earth’s favorite thing to do?
- Who is her best friend? How long does it take the moon to go around the Earth?
- Where did the islands pop up? Did they have any plants or animals on them?
- What did the islands get together and make?
- How many separate continents are there on Earth?
- How many years ago did the first dinosaur live?
- What things happened that were hard on the Earth?
- What does Earth have to say about humans and animals?



EARTH!

C	N	M	I	L	K	Y	W	A	Y
M	O	O	N	V	S	J	O	X	A
J	M	N	E	P	T	U	N	E	Z
B	E	S	T	D	E	P	N	P	I
I	R	A	A	I	N	I	C	L	U
P	C	S	R	T	N	T	R	A	R
L	U	E	M	T	U	E	V	N	A
U	R	W	A	H	H	R	N	E	N
T	Y	H	R	G	G	Q	N	T	U
O	S	J	S	V	E	N	U	S	S

Word List

CONTINENTS	NEPTUNE	SATURN	EARTH	MARS
MILKYWAY	JUPITER	URANUS	PLUTO	MOON
MERCURY	PLANETS	ICEAGE	VENUS	SUN