



# The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems

By Rachel Ignatofsky

*The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth* is a fascinating introduction to the world of nature, ecology and conservation for students, and all who love our Earth.

## 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 is happening inside each of those jars?

**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

- bacteria - a single cell microscopic organism found everywhere
- erosion - the process of wind, water or other natural forces breaking down something over a period of time
- deforestation - the removal of a large number of trees or even entire forests in order to use the land for other purposes.
- endangered species - a species of animal or plant that is in danger of going extinct
- sustainable - term for use of the earth's resources without destroying or depleting them

**After:** Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What is an ecosystem?
- What are some examples of microecosystems?
- What is the biggest benefit of a large coastal redwood tree? What is the greatest threat?
- The Mojave Desert is home to one of the world's largest \_\_\_\_\_? What are its lake beds an important source of?
- What is the world's largest rainforest? Where is it located? Why is the Amazon rainforest nicknamed “the Lungs of the Planet”?
- What are the Northern Lights in the Arctic (also called the aurora borealis) caused by?
- What are some of the human impacts on nature?



**DO**

## **Build a terrarium**

It's time to bring a little nature indoors. Here are a few tutorials to get you started.

SciShowKids (Great for younger kids)

SerpaDesign (Great for kids looking to explore nature more in depth/older kids)



@BOOKITPROGRAM  
BOOKITPROGRAM.COM

This printable is reproducible.

The Pizza Hut name, logos, and related marks are trademarks of Pizza Hut, LLC