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Are you ready to investigate?

Books in My Science Library:
Animal Adaptations
Animal Habitats
Earth’s Changing Surface
Floating and Sinking
I Use a Mouse
Living or Nonliving?
Magnet Power
Matter Comes in All Shapes
Me and My Shadow: A Book about Light
Plant Adaptations
Plant Life Cycles
What’s the Weather Like Today?
Tips on Reading this Book with Children:

1. Read the title.
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4. Have children read the remaining text aloud.

5. Strategy Talk – use to assist children while reading.
   • Get your mouth ready
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6. Read it again.

7. Complete the activities at the end of the book.

Comprehension & Extension:

• Summarize:
  Describe some different features of the Earth’s surface.
  How does the surface of the Earth change?

• Text to Self Connection:
  Have you ever been on a trip with your friends or family?
  If you could visit any part of the world, where would you go?
  Why would you like to go there?

• Extension:
  The book discussed many different ways the surface of the Earth can change. Draw a picture of something you thought was interesting and write about why you chose it.

Sight Words I Used:
are
of
out
when
with

Vocabulary Check:
Use glossary words in a sentence.
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Surface Features

The Earth’s surface is made of land and water. It includes the oceans and all of the land above and below the oceans.

Only about one quarter of the Earth’s surface is land. The rest is covered with water.
There are many bumps and grooves on Earth’s surface. These bumps and grooves are called landforms.

Mountains are the tallest landform on Earth.
Fast or slow, Earth’s surface is always changing.

slow change

fast change
Quick Changes

The Earth’s surface is made of many big slabs. **Faults** are giant cracks between the slabs. These slabs can move and slip past each other at faults.
Sometimes when the slabs move, they get stuck. **Earthquakes** happen when the slabs start to move again.
A **volcano** is an opening in the Earth’s surface. Molten rock from inside can spew out in fiery explosions.
Landslides and mudslides also cause quick changes.
Floods can quickly cover areas of land with water. When the water goes away the land is changed.
Slow Changes

Not all changes happen fast. Water, ice, and wind slowly wear down rock into tiny bits. This process is called *erosion.*
Ocean waves change the shape of beaches and cliffs.
Over time, rivers can carve deep canyons out of solid rock.
The Grand Canyon in Arizona is almost one mile (1.61 kilometers) deep.
Strong winds move sand grain by grain. Giant piles are called dunes.

Dunes can be different shapes and sizes.
A glacier is a huge mass of snow and ice. It pushes tons of soil as it slowly flows over the surface.
Glaciers help to form lakes and valleys.
1. What do parts of the Earth’s surface look like?

2. Name some of the things that can cause Earth’s surface to change quickly.

3. Explain some of the things that change Earth’s surface slowly.
Glossary

**earthquakes** (urth-KWAYKS): sudden, violent shaking of the Earth that may damage buildings and cause injuries

**erosion** (i-ROH-zhuhn): the wearing away of something by water, wind, or glacial ice

**faults** (FAWLTZ): large break in the Earth’s surface where earthquakes can occur

**glacier** (GLAY-shur): a slow-moving mass of ice often found in mountain valleys or polar regions

**surface** (SUR-fis): the outside or outermost layer of something

**volcano** (vahl-KAY-noh): an opening in the Earth’s surface through which molten lava, ash, and hot gases erupt, sometimes violently
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Websites

www.extremescience.com
www.geography4kids.com
www.kidsgeo.com
www.fema.gov/kids/volcano.htm

About the Author

Conrad J. Storad is the award-winning author of more than 30 books for young readers. He writes about desert animals, plants, creepy crawlers, and planets.

Conrad lives in Tempe, Arizona with his wife Laurie and their little double dapple wiener dog, Sophia. They love to explore Arizona’s deserts and mountains.

Photo by Tom Story
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