



Chapter 3: Earth's Surface

Dear Parent:

After completing this chapter, your child will know how forces cause changes on Earth's surface.

Your child will also learn about minerals, rocks, soil, weathering, erosion, and how we describe features of Earth's surface.



You may wish to do the following labs at home with your child. They are easy and fun!

Household Rocks and Minerals Find at least five examples of rocks and minerals in or around your home. Some building materials (such as limestone or granite) are rock, and some jewelry contains minerals (some gemstones are minerals). Make a list of the rocks and minerals that you found and write where you found them.

Humus in Soil Dead plants and animals naturally decay to form humus in soil. People also add decayed matter to soil to help plants grow in it. This matter is called compost. Many homes in the United States have composts. Research to find out how people make compost. Then write and draw a recipe for it.

Identifying Landforms and Water Features Look at several landscape photos in magazines or on the Internet. Identify the landforms and water features in each photo. Make a list of what you saw.

Vocabulary Smart Cards

Your child will learn these vocabulary words:

erosion	mineral
igneous rock	rock
landform	sedimentary
loam	rock
metamorphic	soil
rock	

Help your child make these words a part of his or her vocabulary by using them when you talk together about minerals, rocks, soil, and Earth's surface. You may wish to use your child's Vocabulary Smart Cards to play a memory game. Ask your child to use each word in a sentence.