

Welcome!

Grade 1, Unit 5

This Planet Rocks

Dear Family Member,

In this unit, students will be introduced to the geographical features of the earth's surface.

What's the story?

Students will learn about the **shape** of the earth, the **North and South Poles**, and the **equator**. They will also explore the **layers** of the earth, including the **crust**, the **mantle**, and the **core**.

What will my student learn?

Through daily Read-Alouds, students will learn about **minerals** and **rocks**. They will learn how rocks and minerals are taken from the earth's crust and how they are used by people. Students will also explore **fossils** and how they provide us with knowledge about the **history** of living things on Earth.

Students will have the opportunity to **write friendly letters**. They will **share important information** they learn during the Read-Alouds with both **geologists** and **paleontologists** they have met during the unit.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What are some of the features of the earth you have been learning about?
Follow up: What is the equator? Can you show me where the equator is on the globe? (If you do not have a globe, have your student point to where the equator would be on something that is shaped like a globe, such as an orange, a ball, etc.)
2. Tell me about the layers of the earth.
Follow up: Which layer is the one we live on? Describe the crust of the earth to me. What things are found in the crust of the earth?
3. What is a geyser? What is a volcano?
Follow up: How are they similar? How are they different?
4. What do paleontologists study?
Follow up: What do paleontologists and geologists have in common? Which would you rather be? Why?