



Summary

Know How Know Why: Our Planet is a fact-filled question/answer book that helps children learn about the Earth. Earth's geographical features, natural disasters, common weather patterns, and continents are included in this fact-based book.

Vocabulary		Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features	
arid avalanche climate drought gravity reservoir water cycle	atmosphere basin delta evaporation precipitation supercontinent	Using prior knowledge to understand text, Summarizing information	Text structure: Question/answer, Specificity, Description	headings illustrations text boxes index	photographs captions glossary

Standards: Science

- Knows that the Earth is one of several planets that orbit the sun and that the moon orbits the Earth
- Knows that water exists in the air in different forms and changes from one form to another through various processes
- Knows that the sun provides the light and heat necessary to maintain the temperature of the Earth
- Knows that air is a substance that surround us, takes up space, and moves as wind
- Knows that most of Earth's surface is covered with water, that most of that water in the oceans is salt water, and that fresh water is found in rivers, lakes, underground sources, and glaciers

Standards: History

- Understands selected attributes and historical developments of societies in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe
Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/

Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title and ask students if they are familiar with Earth science. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students and introduces them to the vocabulary words.

Discussion questions:

- What do you know about our planet Earth? (Natural wonders, weather, geographical features, composition, etc.)
- Have you ever heard of a *supercontinent*? What do you think it is? Turn to the glossary to find out.
- Can you name the seven continents?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **Know How Know Why: Our Planet** is an informational text written in the question/answer format. Ask students to look at

pages 2 and 3. Point out that each section starts with a main idea question and then provides the answer. Discuss ways to read a question/answer text and highlight features that support students in reading the text.

Highlight prompts:

- What text feature helps you find the information you are looking for quickly? (Index)
- Let's look at the index on page 48. How is an index different than a table of contents?

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **Know How Know Why: Our Planet** gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- How are earthquakes and volcanoes similar?
- How do wind, rain, snow and ice affect the earth?
- What steps are involved in the water cycle?

BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the next page to complete the word web to summarize information learned from the text.



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Name: _____

Date: _____

Word Web

Directions: Complete the word web as a summary of the information you learned from the text. The Earth is the topic and you choose the subtopics (each question/answer page). On the extended lines of the subtopic circle write details about the subtopic.

