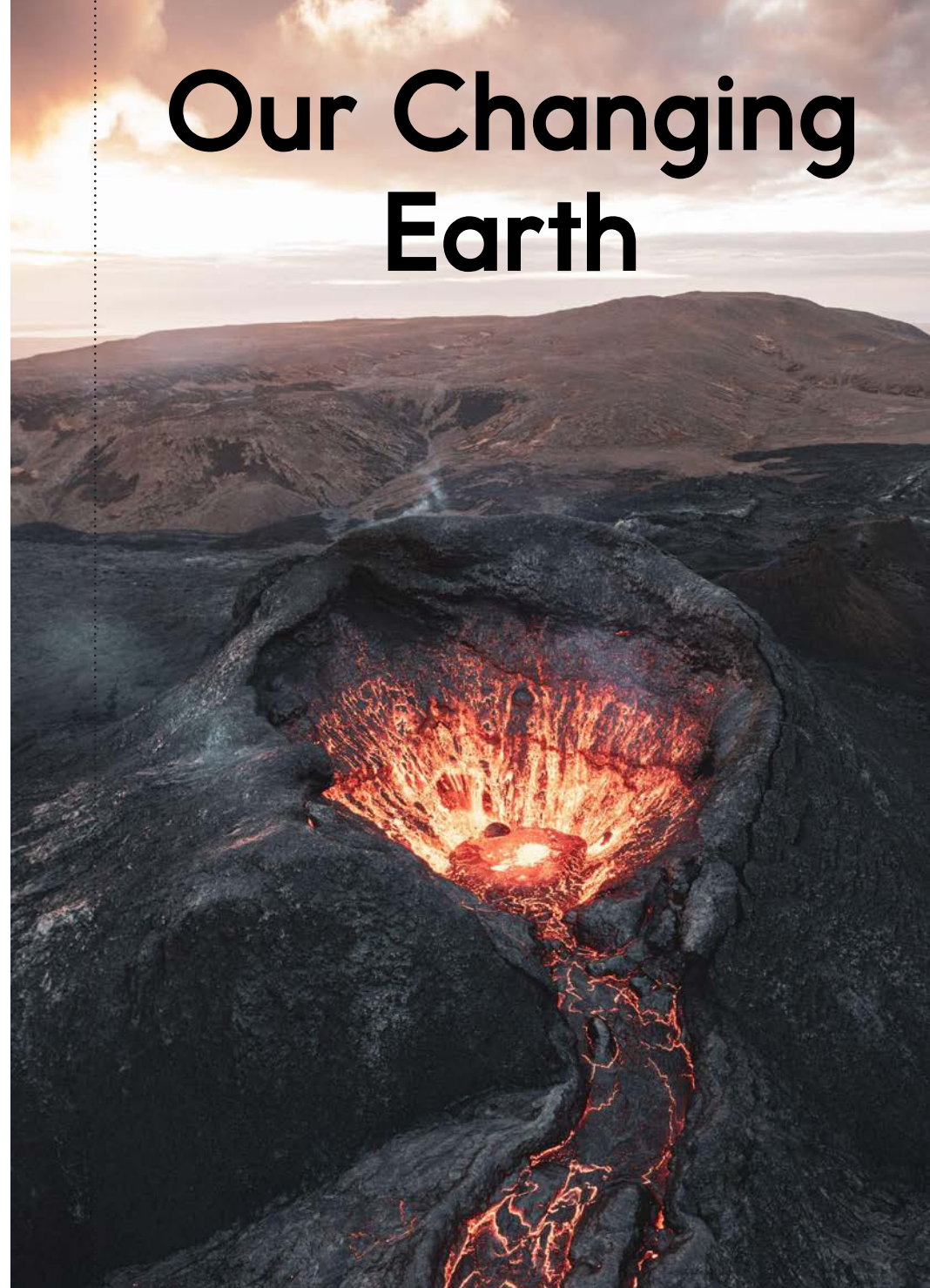


# Our Changing Earth

Decodable Book • 543 Words



# Our Changing Earth



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Written by Bobbee Summers







People find ways to be helpers. For example, a whale made from forty thousand reusable plastic bottles made people aware of the plastic problem.

Scientists and scholars, or students, study our changing Earth. They have told us that some problems are fixable or avoidable. We can pledge to take their advice and change activities that are selfish and foolish. We can act as protectors of the Earth.

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## INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS CHART

### Target Phonics Skills and Related Decodable Words:

Suffixes -able and -ish; suffixes -ar, -er, -or; r-controlled syllables; vowel team syllables; phonograms -edge, -idge

*absorbing, avoidable, aware, carries, carving, cooler, countless, daily, deadly, deeper, disappeared, farming, fixable, foolish, forceful, forests, forty, freezes, garbage, harmful, helpers, landform, ledges, notable, pledge, protectors, reason, released, reusable, ridges, scholars, selfish, sluggish, surface, thousand, unable, unhealthy, visitors, weathering, wedge*

### Spiral Review Focus and Related Decodable Words:

Hard and soft sounds of c; hard and soft sounds of g; phonograms -ace, -ank, -ice, -unk

*acid, act, advice, ago, can, canyon, cars, caused, change, collect, crack, cut, distance, dug, effect, factories, force, gases, gets, ground, grow, ice, images, junk, pace, plastic, process, produce, shrank, space, volcano*

### New High-Frequency Words:

\*regular words (decodable); †irregular words

\*city, \*cold, \*hold, \*old, \*told

### Story Words:

*Earth, island, nature*

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Everyday things people do make our planet unhealthy. Factories, cars, and trucks give off a lot of harmful gases into the air. The gases form a harmful acid that falls to the ground in rain. It ends up in soil, rivers, lakes, and streams.

Plastics that we use every day can end up in the sea. This can be deadly for fish and other sea life.





Trees also help to keep our planet wetter and cooler. They collect water from the ground by absorbing the water through their roots. The water is released from the leaves as water vapor. Fewer trees lead to hotter air and soil that is too dry for planting.



Earth is always changing. Some changes happen slowly, while others happen quickly. These changes are caused by both nature and people.

One way to see how Earth changes is from a distance. Some scientists study images of Earth taken by satellites in space. They keep track of our planet's polar ice, seas, and shifting landforms.





One reason why landforms change is weathering. Weathering is when wind, water, ice, and heat force rocks to break into smaller bits.

Weathering and other processes are always changing the surface of Earth. These processes happen at a slow, sluggish pace over time.



Trees help to hold soil in place. Eroding soil is one effect of cutting down too many trees. But people cut down trees for many reasons, such as making the land usable for farming or for houses. Many forests have disappeared.



People change our planet, too. Whether we live in a small town or a big city, our daily activities change the air, sea, and land. We produce a lot of garbage and junk that ends up in landfills or in the sea.



For example, water might flow into a crack in rocky land. If it gets cold enough, the water freezes. The ice takes up more space than water. This makes a wedge that forces the crack to grow wider.

Over time, bits of rock break away. As the ground heats up, melting ice carries away the small bits of rock. This is an example of land eroding.





Weathering and eroding lead to many types of landforms. The Grand Canyon is a notable example of a landform formed by this process over countless years.

The river at the bottom of the canyon dug its way through the old rock. The river continued carving the canyon deeper and wider. Visitors now see ridges and ledges that change over the years.



Sudden, forceful events, such as an erupting mud volcano, also change the surface of the planet.

Once, a mud volcano erupted under the sea. It produced enough mud to form a small island. Over time, waves washed the mud away, and the island shrank. Several years later, people were unable to see it above water.