



My Earth

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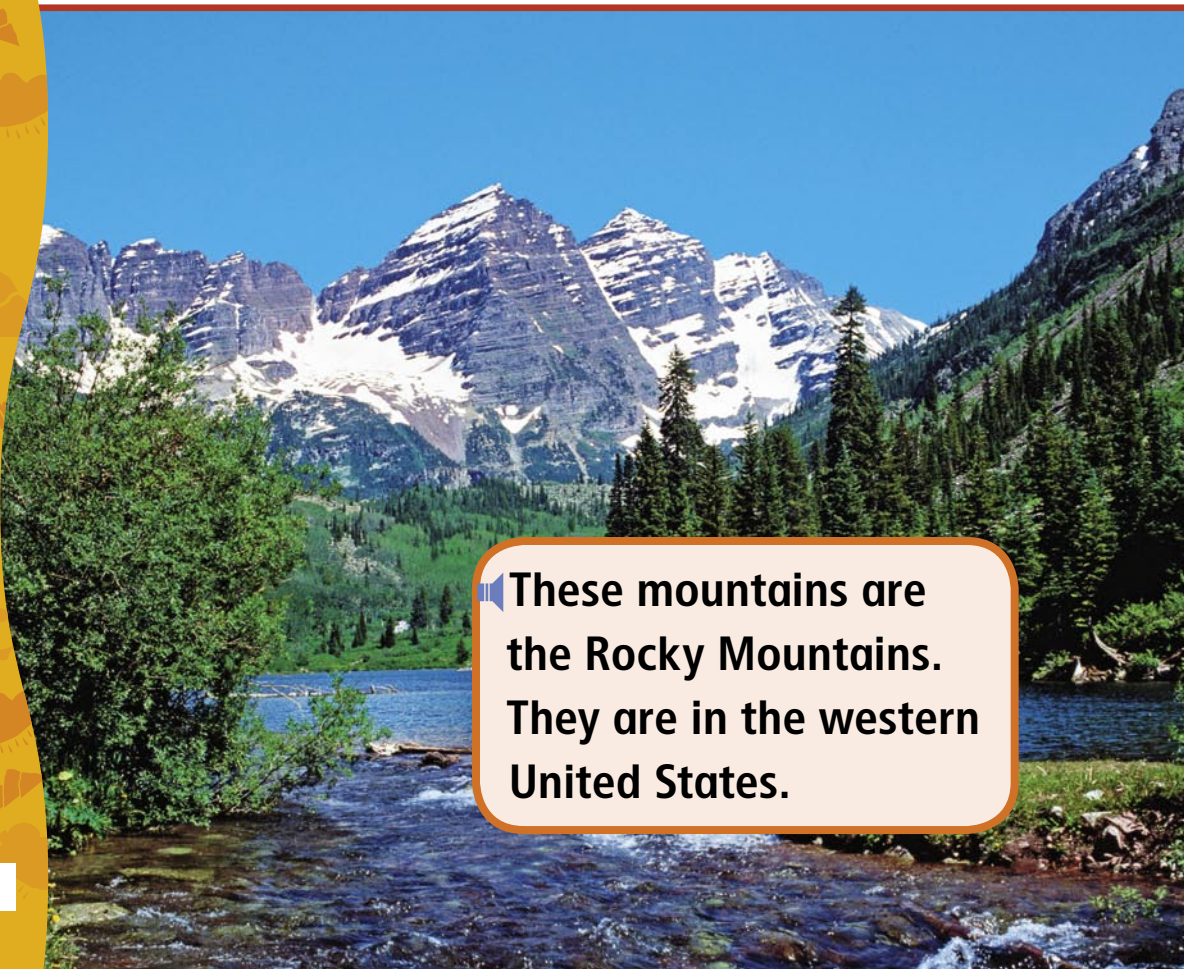
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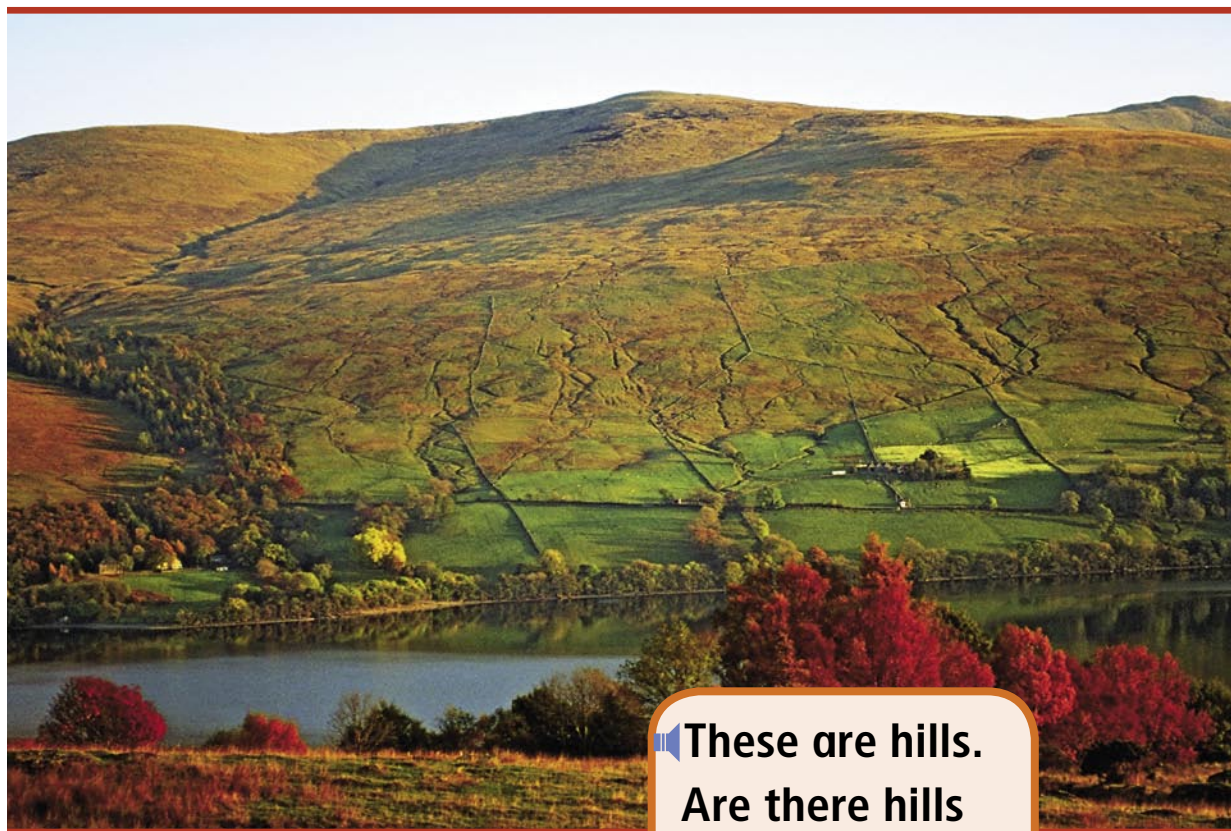
Mountains and Hills

▶ You live on Earth's land. The land on Earth has different shapes.

▶ Some land is high. A **mountain** is the highest kind of land. It has sides that slope up to the top. The tops of some mountains are rocky. Others are round.



▶ These mountains are the Rocky Mountains. They are in the western United States.



These are hills.
Are there hills
where you live?

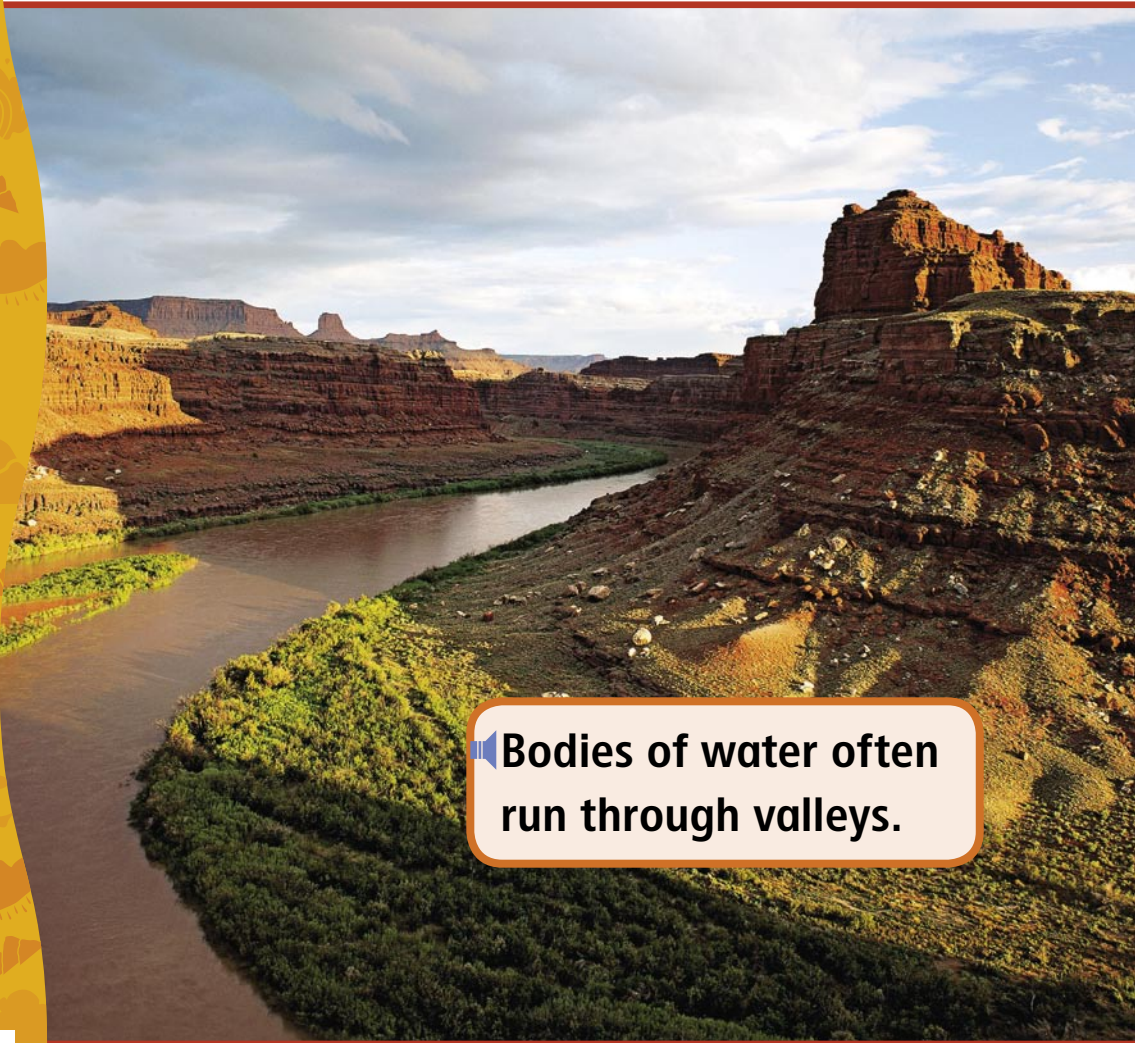
Another high place is a hill. A **hill** is smaller than a mountain. Hills are usually round on top.




COMPARE AND CONTRAST How are mountains and hills different?


Valleys and Plains


Land on Earth is lower in some places than in other places. A **valley** is the low land between mountains or hills. What would you see if you walked in a valley?



 Bodies of water often run through valleys.



 This is a field of wheat. Wheat is grown on plains.

 If you stand on a plain, the land around you looks the same. A **plain** is flat land. It spreads out a long way.



Fast Fact

About 10 million people live on the Great Plains of the United States!



COMPARE AND CONTRAST How is a valley different from a plain?

Beaches and Oceans

Have you been to a beach? A **beach** is flat sandy land along a shore. Some beaches may have sand, pebbles, or rocks on them.

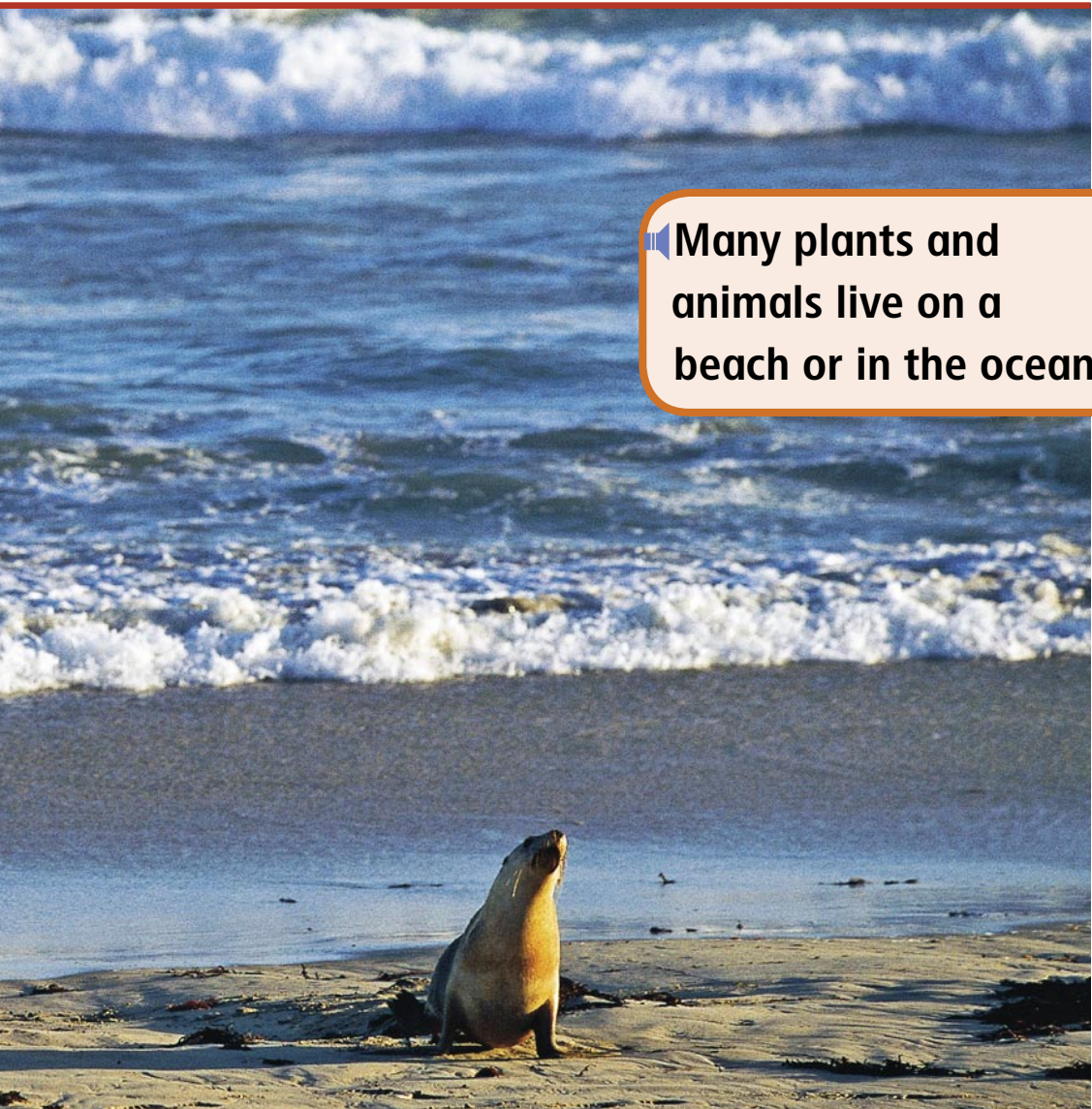


Beaches are found at the edge of a lake or ocean. An **ocean** is a large body of salty water. Most of Earth's water is in oceans.



MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS Where are beaches found?

Many plants and animals live on a beach or in the ocean.



Other Bodies of Water

Oceans are bodies of water. You have probably seen other bodies of water, too.

A **stream** is a small body of moving water. It flows downhill. Streams flow together.

Streams may begin in mountains.



🔊 A **river** is a large body of moving water. Rivers flow together, too. Rivers flow into lakes and oceans. A **lake** is a still body of water with land all around it.



Fast Fact

Alaska has over 3 million lakes. That's more than any other U.S. state.

🔊 Streams, rivers, and lakes are bodies of fresh water.



COMPARE AND CONTRAST How are lakes different from streams and rivers?

🔊 This is Lake Michigan. It is one of the Great Lakes.

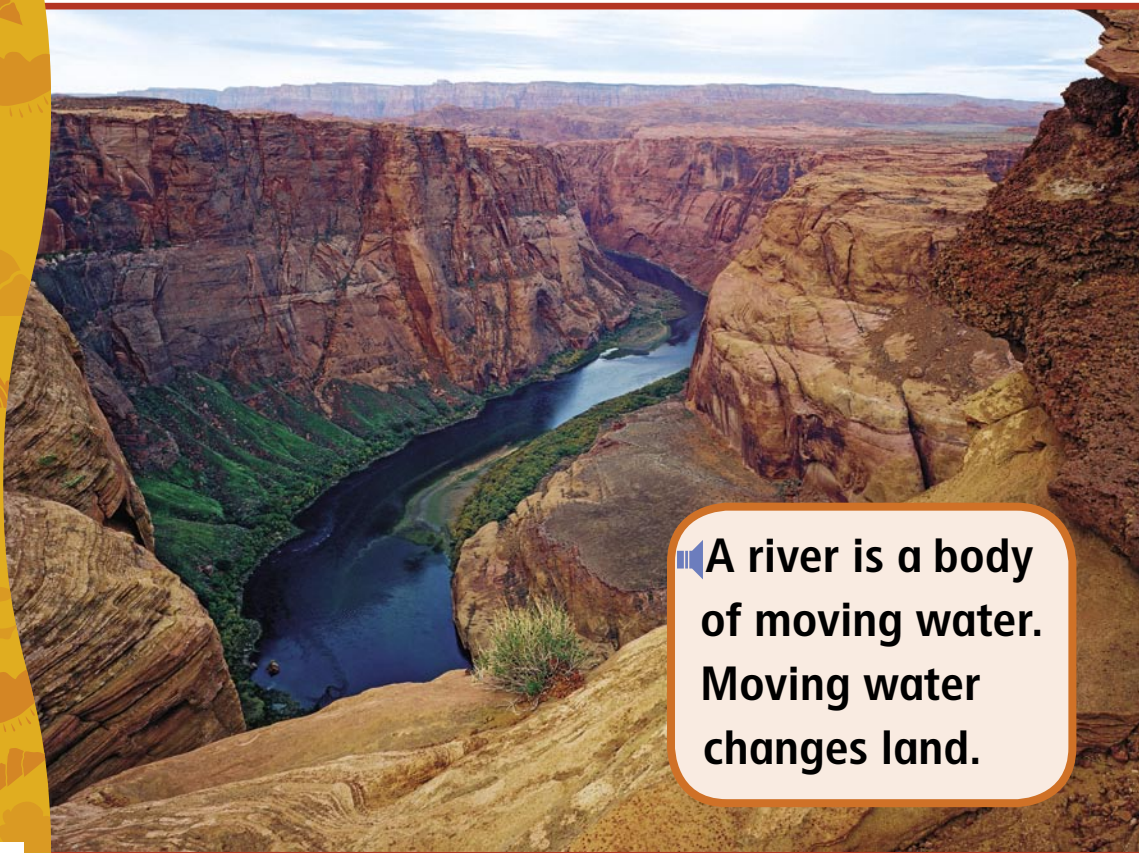



Water Changes Land

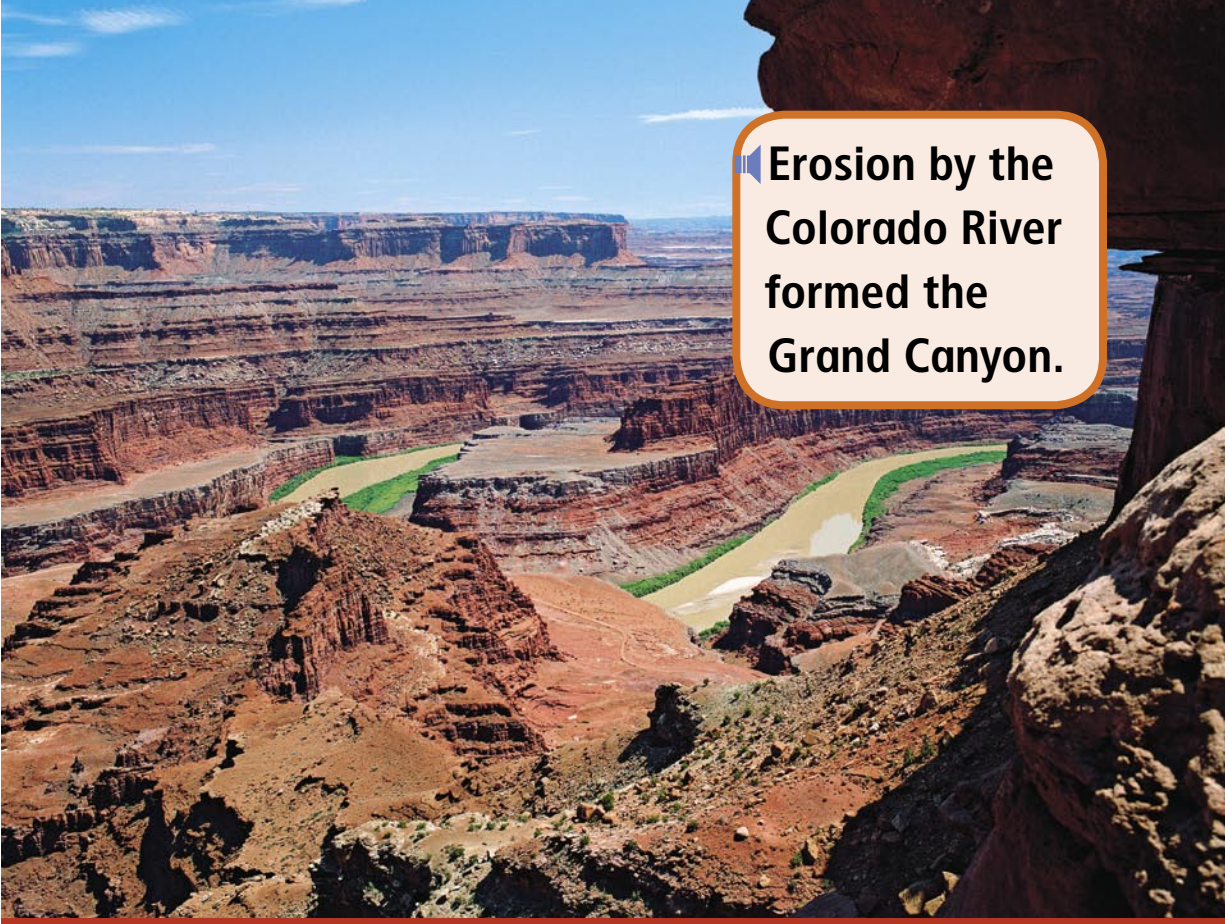
Did you know that water can change things? Water changes Earth's land. Water carries rocks and soil away as it moves over land. It takes them to new places. This is called **erosion**.



CAUSE AND EFFECT How does water change land?



 A river is a body of moving water. Moving water changes land.



Erosion by the Colorado River formed the Grand Canyon.











Summary

Earth has land and water. Land on Earth has different shapes. Some land is high. Some land is low. Bodies of water are different, too. Some water is fresh water. Ocean water is salty.





Fast Fact

Erosion has turned half of New Jersey's beaches into rubble.

Glossary

-  **beach** A flat sandy land along a shore (6, 7)
-  **erosion** The changes made to land by moving water (10)
-  **hill** A high place that is smaller than a mountain and round on top (3, 4)
-  **lake** A still body of water with land all around it (9, 11)
-  **mountain** The highest kind of land (2, 3, 4, 8)
-  **ocean** A large body of salty water (7, 9, 11)
-  **plain** A flat land that spreads far (5)
-  **river** A large body of moving water (9, 10, 11)
-  **stream** A small body of moving water (8, 9, 11)
-  **valley** The low land between mountains or hills (4, 5)

Think and Write

-  **1.** Tell what you know about erosion.
-  **2. MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS** What two kinds of land are high?
-  **3. COMPARE AND CONTRAST** How are plains and beaches alike? How are they different?
-  **4.** Write a story about a beach.

Hands-On Activity

Work with a partner. Make a list of bodies of water found on Earth.

School-Home Connection

Tell a family member what you have learned about Earth's land and water. Draw pictures that show what Earth looks like where you live.