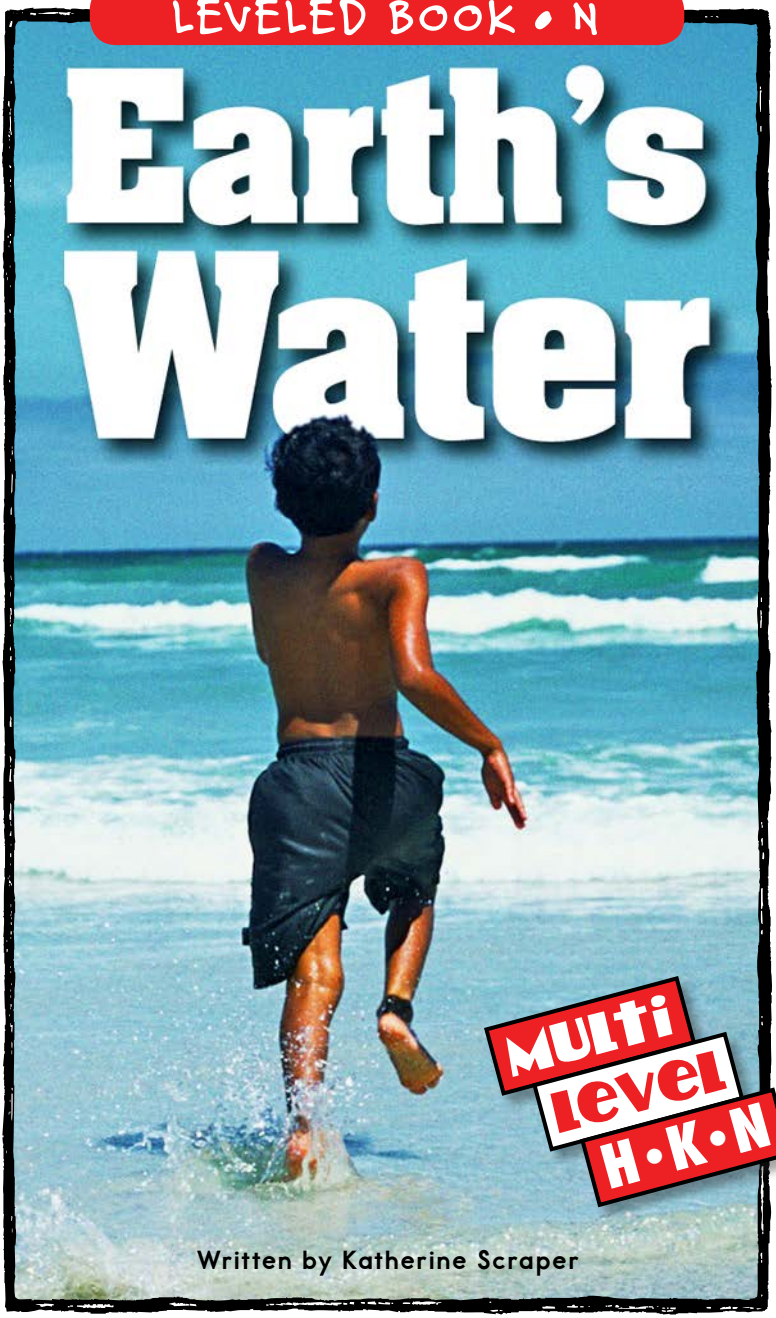
LEVELED BOOK • N

Earth's Water



MULTI LEVEL H•K•N

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Focus Question

Why is water important?

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Water Everywhere

Water fills oceans, lakes, and ponds, and it flows in rivers, streams, and underground. It is even in the air. Frozen water is found on some parts of Earth as snow and ice.

The dark parts in this picture of Earth are water.

Water covers over two-thirds of Earth's surface. Salt water in the oceans makes up most of Earth's water. Earth has much less fresh water. Many plants and animals need fresh water to survive.

Some of this fresh water is aboveground, while other fresh water is **groundwater** underneath Earth's surface.

What are some ways you use Earth's water?

Different Forms of Water

Liquid water is the most common state of water on Earth. When you pour liquid water into a container, it takes the shape of that container.

Each of these containers holds four cups of water.

Liquid water is always moving, even if you can't see it move. Water moves in rivers and streams due to *currents*—the constant flow of moving water. Lakes and ponds are standing bodies of water. The liquid water in them moves slowly. Surface and underwater currents cause ocean water to move, with waves forming and crashing. Winds, the Moon, and the Sun affect the strength of ocean currents.

Ice can be carved into many shapes.

Not all water is liquid. When liquid water gets very cold, it freezes and forms ice. Ice is another state of water—**solid** water.

Ice can float on liquid water. People form ice into different shapes. You've probably made ice cubes to cool down a drink. Artists even carve ice sculptures.

Sheets of ice cover Earth's South Pole.

Much of Earth's frozen water is at the North and South Poles, the coldest areas on Earth. The most common places to find **glaciers** are at the poles. These huge masses of ice store much of Earth's fresh water.

What states of water can you see in this picture?

Some of Earth's water is in an **invisible** state as a **gas** called *water vapor*. While it's always invisible, water vapor is all around us. When it is hot outside, more water vapor fills the air than when it is cold outside. *Humidity* is the amount of water vapor in the air. On hot and humid days, the air feels thick with lots of water vapor **concentrated** in the air.

The sunlight heats up the snow, and the snowman melts.

Changing Water

Earth's water is always changing from one state to another. When frozen water is heated, it melts and becomes liquid water. When liquid water is cooled, it freezes and becomes ice.

Energy from the Sun causes water to evaporate.

Liquid water can become a gas, too. Have you ever seen a puddle of water dry up on a hot day? Energy from the Sun changed the liquid to a gas in a process called *evaporation*. Evaporation happens every day as the Sun beats down on Earth's bodies of water.

When water vapor in the air cools down, it changes from a gas to a liquid. This process is called *condensation*.

Clouds are made up of tiny drops of water formed by condensation. The tiny drops stick together, creating larger, heavier drops. If the drops become large enough, they fall as rain, snow, or another type of **precipitation**.

Clouds drop water on the desert as rain.

Some rain and melted snow soak into the ground, becoming groundwater. Precipitation and groundwater fill rivers, lakes, streams, and ponds. Water evaporates from bodies of water around the world. Later, it condenses and falls in other places on Earth.

Water Is Important

Rain keeps plants alive and allows them to grow. People and other animals need water to survive. We also use it for other purposes, such as fighting fires.

It is important to take care of Earth's water. People are the main cause of **water pollution**, although sometimes it occurs naturally. Littering and dumping trash lead to dirty and unusable water. Polluted water makes people, plants, and animals sick. Would you want to drink and play in polluted water?

Glossary

concentrated *(v.)* gathered or collected together (p. 10)

gas *(n.)* matter that can freely change shape and size; often it can't be seen (p. 10)

glaciers *(n.)* large amounts of ice and snow that are found year-round and that slowly move downhill (p. 9)

groundwater *(n.)* water held underground in soil or rock, often feeding springs and wells (p. 6)

invisible *(adj.)* unable to be seen (p. 10)

liquid *(adj.)* able to flow and change shape while keeping its size (p. 7)

precipitation *(n.)* water that falls to the ground, such as hail, sleet, rain, or snow (p. 13)

solid *(adj.)* having a firm or hard form or shape (p. 8)

water pollution *(n.)* the presence of dirty or harmful materials in Earth's bodies of water (p. 15)

Words to Know

concentrated
gas
glaciers
groundwater
invisible
liquid
precipitation
solid
water pollution

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Correlation

LEVEL N	
Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
DRA	28

Earth's Water

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Connections

Writing

Write a speech telling your classmates why it is important to take care of Earth's water. Use the information from the book to help you. Present your speech to your class.

Science and Art

Draw and label a picture showing water in its three different states: liquid, solid, and gas. Include some vocabulary words from the book in your picture.