

# Greetings, Family!

Books and movies sometimes show people traveling deep into the Earth. This is impossible because Earth's outer layers are made of rock. Earth's center is molten metal. The part of Earth that we live on can be thought of as a thin shell. In this unit, "Taking a Look at Earth," your student will be learning about the way Earth's surface is shaped and about the inner workings of Earth's many layers—its lithosphere, mantle, and core.

No matter where you live, there are signs all around you of the ways Earth's crust is shaped. Whether it is the way an ocean wears away rock to form sand or a river cutting through rock, evidence of Earth's changes is all around us. You can point out and discuss these features to your student. Ask him or her to describe the ways in which the features may have changed over time.

For this unit, we will be doing some hands-on activities to reinforce and demonstrate what your student has learned about our constantly changing Earth. Can you donate or loan any of these supplies? If so, we need to receive your items by \_\_\_\_\_.

- paper plates
- dental floss
- vinegar
- paper cups
- plastic knife
- cardstock
- plastic bowls
- soil
- magnets
- sand samples from various locations
- modeling clay
- eyedropper
- aluminum pan

Finally, we could also use your help in the classroom. Do you or other family members have any particular interest or special experience with this topic? Would you be able to help with the activities? If so, please fill out the form below and have your student return it to class.

Thank you very much for your help!

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## Family Newsletter

### Unit A, Taking a Look at Earth

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_