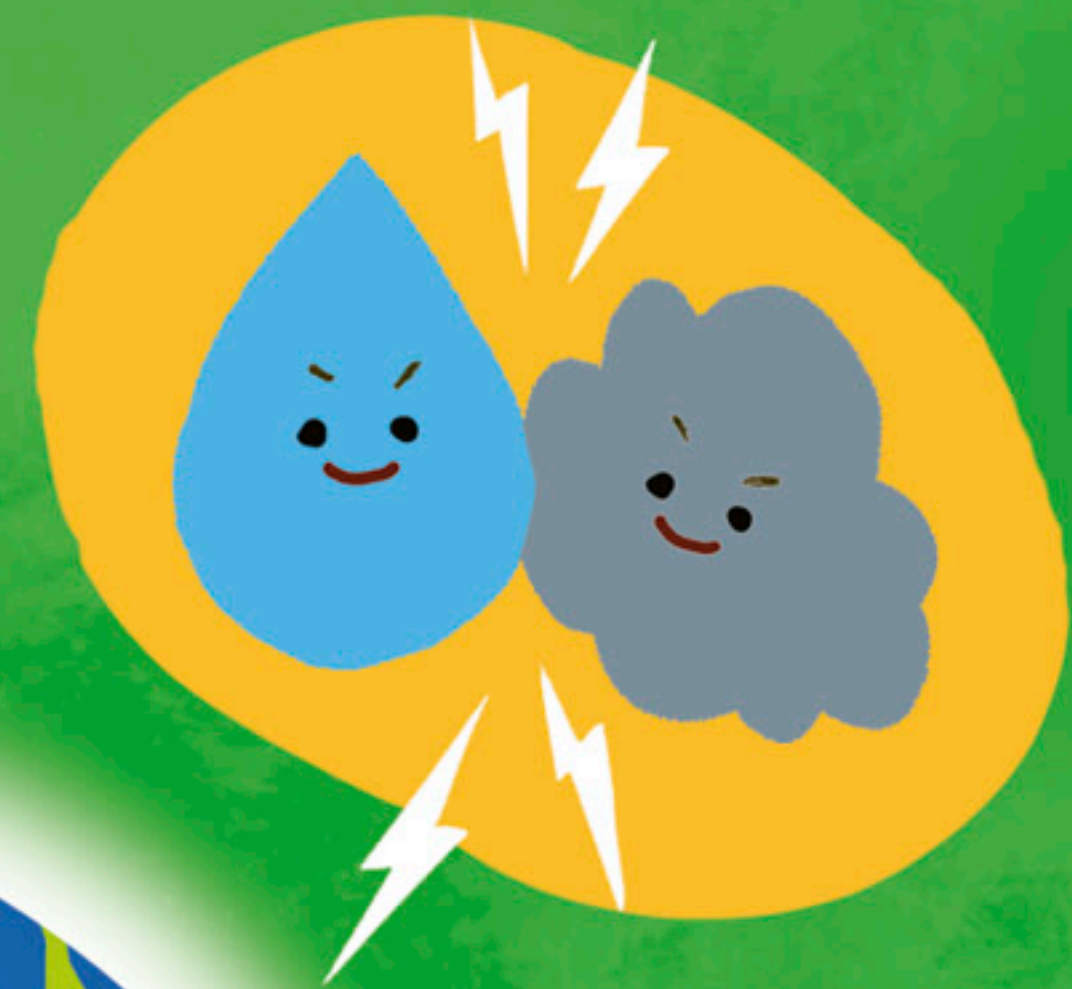




Tell me about...

PLANET EARTH



**A FIRST
SCIENCE book
for curious
minds!**

*Written by Emily Dodd
Illustrated by Chorkung*

Earth is Home

You live on a brilliant ball of spinning rock called Earth. It's a planet travelling through space on a gigantic loop around a star called the Sun.



It takes a whole year to travel all the way around the Sun. So if you are five years old, you have circled the Sun five times already!

Earth travels around the Sun on an oval path but it also spins on the spot. The spin is why it gets dark at night.

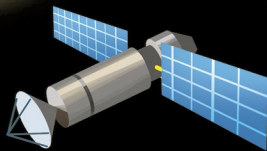
There's another ball of rock about a quarter of the size of Earth and you can see it in the night sky. It's called the Moon.



It takes a month for the Moon to travel around Earth on an oval path.

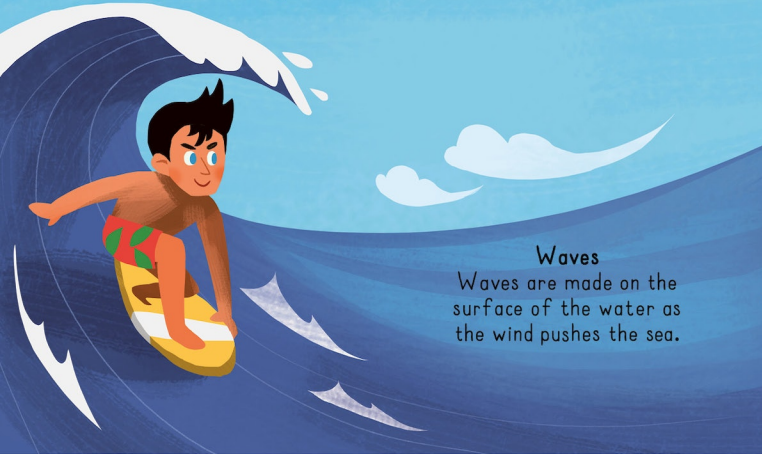


Your home turns away from the Sun at night and by morning, it has turned back towards the Sun once again. It takes 24 hours for a complete spin to happen, and we call that a whole day.



Oceans

If you flew out into space and looked back at Earth it would look blue. That's because two thirds of our planet's surface is covered in liquid water. It's mostly found in the oceans and seas.



Waves

Waves are made on the surface of the water as the wind pushes the sea.



Tides

The sea comes in at high tide and goes out at low tide. This happens twice every day because of the way Earth is spinning beneath the Moon.

That's right, the Moon makes our tides! Gravity is a pull that happens between Earth, the Moon and the Sun. It pulls on you too. When you jump, gravity pulls you back down to Earth.

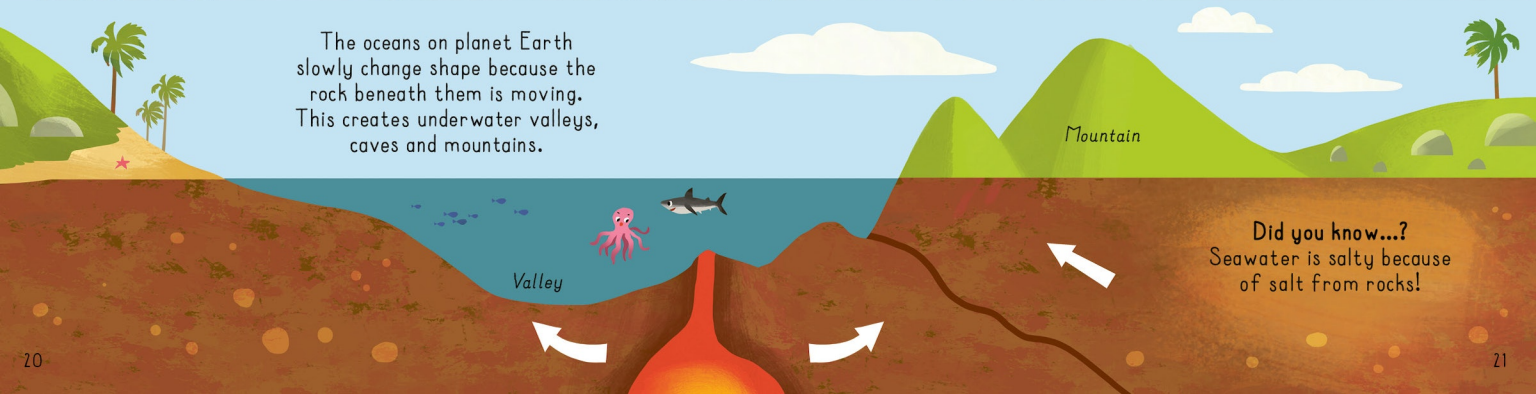


Low tide



High tide

The oceans on planet Earth slowly change shape because the rock beneath them is moving. This creates underwater valleys, caves and mountains.



Did you know...?
Seawater is salty because of salt from rocks!

Caves

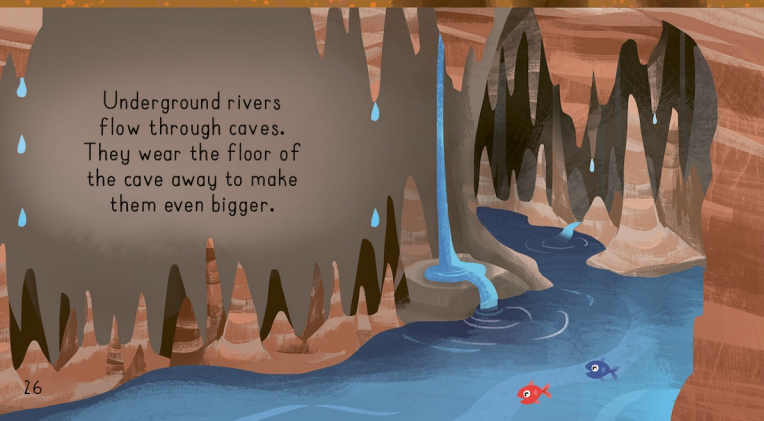
Caves are big holes carved into cliffs by waves hitting the rock. But they can also form underground as rain trickles through cracks in the rock.



That's right, tiny little rain droplets can make massive caves because they dissolve the rock away a little bit at a time.



Underground rivers flow through caves. They wear the floor of the cave away to make them even bigger.



Inside the cave, some droplets of rainwater evaporate. As the liquid water drops turn into gas, they leave behind the tiny bits of rock they were carrying. The bits of rock stick to the roof.

In a thousand years, all the drops of water will have left enough rock behind to make a shape about as long as your finger. This is called a stalactite.



The same thing happens as the water drips onto the floor of the cave too. The cave floor grows upwards into a wider pointy shape called a stalagmite.

Digging and Drilling

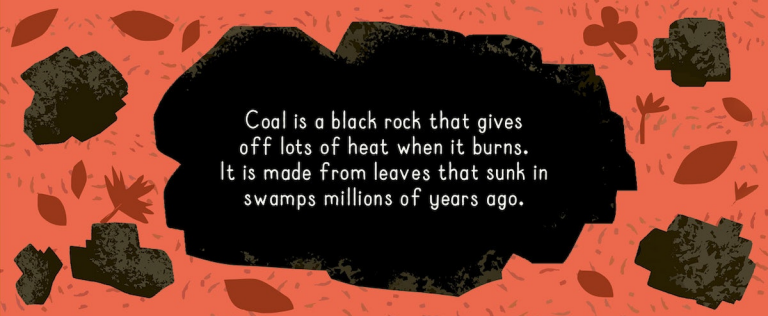
When humans dig useful rocks and metals out of the ground, it is called mining. People also drill long holes deep down into the rock to find little pockets of gas and a liquid called oil.



The oil and gas found deep underground were once tiny sea creatures. They sank to the bottom of the sea and got squashed over millions of years. They turned into a dark liquid called oil and a gas called methane.



Coal is a black rock that gives off lots of heat when it burns. It is made from leaves that sunk in swamps millions of years ago.



We can burn oil, coal and methane gas to make electricity and to power vehicles.



Metals can make lots of useful things including bikes, phones, computers and cars.

Metal
Most metals are hidden underground within other rocks. A few metals are found just as they are at the surface, including gold, silver and copper.

