Earth's Water

A Reading A–Z Level K Leveled Book
Word Count: 421

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.

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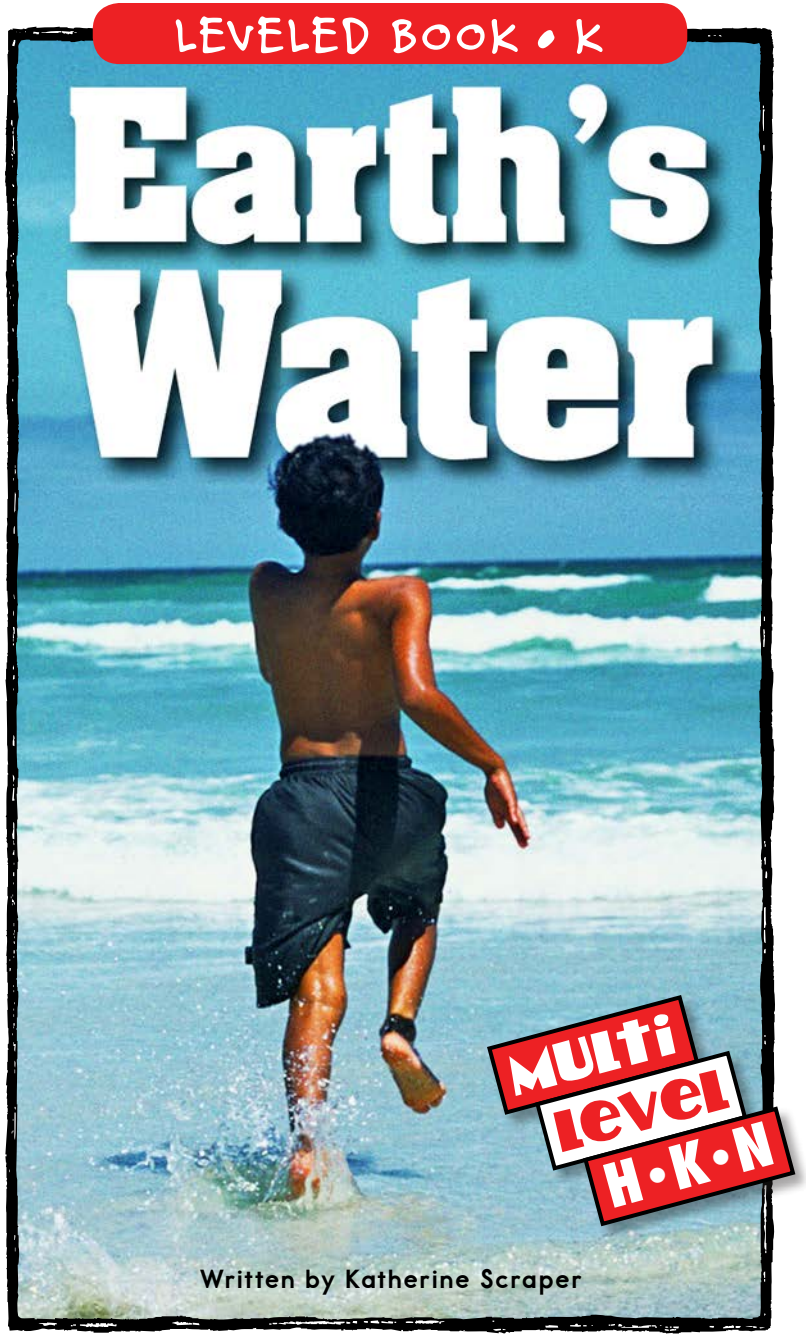

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Earth's Water

Written by Katherine Scraper

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Focus Question

Why is water important?

Words to Know

gas	polluted
invisible	precipitation
liquid	solid

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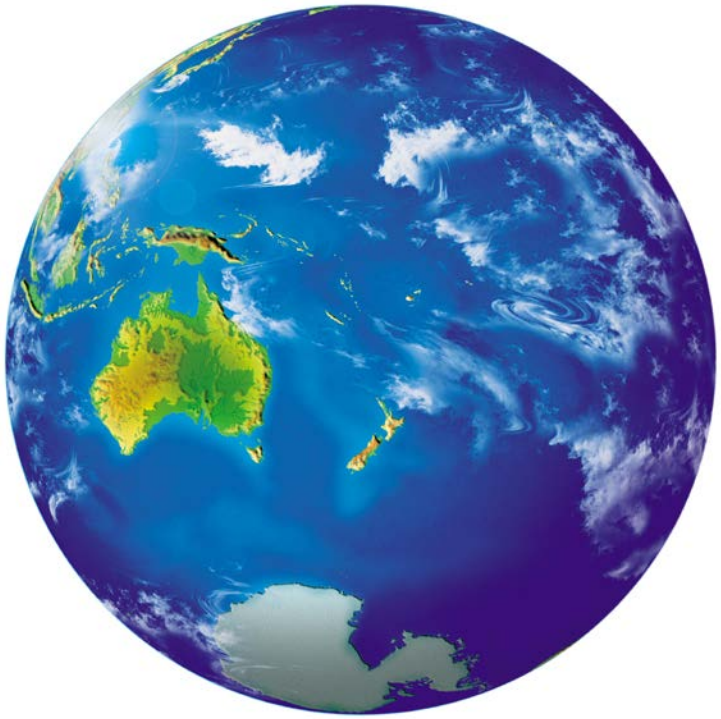
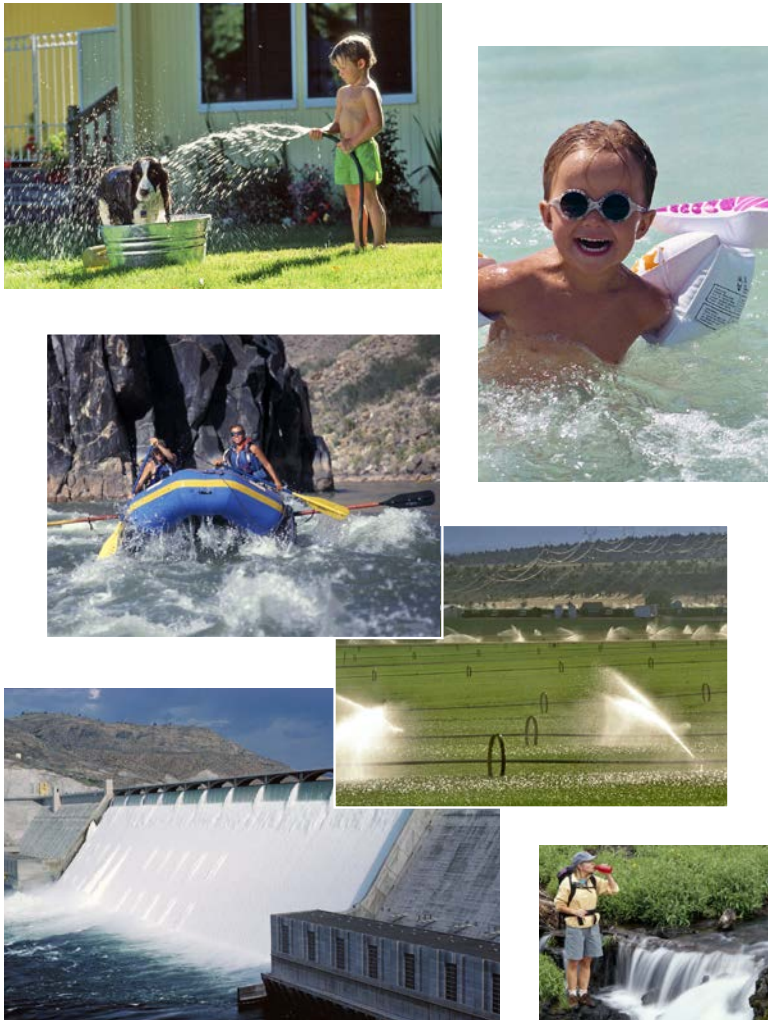
Water Everywhere

Water fills oceans, lakes, and ponds. It flows in rivers, streams, and underground. It is even in the air. Some parts of Earth have snow and ice, which are frozen water.



The dark parts in this picture of Earth are water.

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



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

What are some ways you use Earth's water?

Each of these containers holds four cups of water.

Different Forms of Water

Liquid water is the most common state of Earth's water. It takes the shape of the container it is in. Liquid water is always moving, even if you can't see it move. It flows in rivers and streams, and it crashes as ocean waves.

Ice can be carved into many shapes.

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

Ice can float on liquid water. People form ice into different shapes. Artists even carve ice to make sculptures.

Sheets of ice cover Earth's South Pole.

Much of Earth's frozen water is at the North and South Poles, Earth's coldest areas.

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.

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*. Water evaporates from oceans, rivers, lakes, and puddles all over the world.

Clouds drop water on the desert as rain.

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. Once they're large enough, they fall to the ground as rain or another type of **precipitation**.

Water Is Important

Rain keeps plants alive and allows them to keep growing. 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. Keeping waste and trash away from water keeps it from becoming dirty and unusable. **Polluted** water makes people, plants, and animals sick. Would you want to drink and play in polluted water?

Glossary

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

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

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

polluted *(adj.)* made dirty or harmful (p. 15)

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)