



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE OCEAN

The ocean is made up of salt water. There are four main oceans. They are the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian, and the Arctic Ocean.

The top of the earth is made up mostly of ocean. Many fish and plants live in the ocean. Sharks swim through the water. Whales and seals live in the ocean, too.

The ocean gives us fish for food. It lets us sail boats from one place to another place. We can even surf on ocean waves.

We need the ocean in order to live. You can help to keep the beach clean when you visit. Then, we can all enjoy the ocean.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the ocean made up of?
  - a. sharks
  - b. salt water
  - c. boats
  - d. plants
2. What does not live in the ocean?
  - a. sharks
  - b. whales
  - c. tigers
  - d. fish
3. Why do we need the ocean?
  - a. It gives us food.
  - b. It is pretty.
  - c. It is cold.
  - d. It is big.
4. How can you help the ocean?
  - a. You can surf.
  - b. You can sail.
  - c. You can fish.
  - d. You can keep the beach clean.



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## MOUNTAINS

A mountain is a very tall hill. It climbs high into the sky. There are mountains all over the world.

The tallest mountain in the world is Mount Everest. It is in Nepal. People climb to its top. It is very cold.

The highest mountain in the U.S. is in Alaska. People call it Denali. It is lovely.

Mountains are fun to explore.  
Bears and birds live there.  
So do trees and plants.  
Have you ever walked up a mountain?



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. A mountain is a very tall . . .
  - a. bear.
  - b. tree.
  - c. hill.
  - d. plant.
2. If you walk up Mount Everest, you need a . . .
  - a. swim suit.
  - b. bear.
  - c. pair of sandals.
  - d. snow suit.
3. The highest mountain in the U.S. is in . . .
  - a. Nepal.
  - b. Alaska.
  - c. New York.
  - d. California.
4. What does not live on a mountain?
  - a. whales
  - b. birds
  - c. trees
  - d. bears



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## TREES

A tree is a tall, woody plant. Some trees can grow to 350 feet. Trees can live for thousands of years.

Trees have a few parts. They have a trunk. They have branches. They also have roots.

Some trees have needles. These trees are called evergreens. Some of these are pine, fir, spruce, and cedar.

Other trees have leaves. Some of these are elm, maple, ash, and apple. These leaves turn red and yellow in the fall.

We need trees. They give us air. They also give us shade. Some trees give us fruit. So plant a tree today!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. In this story, the word *trunk* means . . .
  - a. suitcase.
  - b. the nose on an elephant.
  - c. a woody stem.
  - d. a chest.
2. Trees with needles are called . . .
  - a. evergreens.
  - b. trunks.
  - c. wood.
  - d. elm.
3. What color are maple leaves in the fall?
  - a. blue
  - b. red
  - c. purple
  - d. black
4. Trees do not give us . . .
  - a. fruit.
  - b. shade.
  - c. air.
  - d. dogs.





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## RIVERS

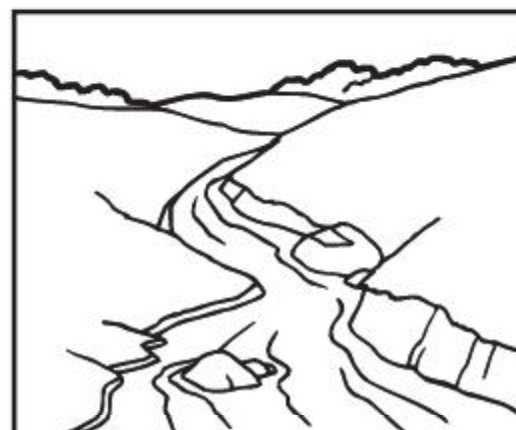
We need rivers. They bring water from mountains to oceans. They also bring water to lakes.

Snow falls on mountains. Then it melts. The water runs down the mountain. Now, it becomes a river. It travels to oceans or lakes.

The longest river in the world is the Nile. It is in Africa. You can take a boat down the Nile.

Some rivers flood. This can be good for farmland. But it is bad if a river floods your house. Some people pollute rivers. This hurts the water, plants, and animals.

Do you have a river in your town? Where did it come from? You can help to keep it clean. Pick up trash in the river. Thank it for bringing you water.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Rivers bring water to . . .
  - a. lakes.
  - b. mountains.
  - c. floods.
  - d. trash.
2. What happens to snow when it melts?
  - a. It floods.
  - b. It pollutes water.
  - c. It runs down mountains.
  - d. It hurts animals.
3. Where is the longest river?
  - a. in the mountains
  - b. in California
  - c. in the ocean
  - d. in Africa
4. How can you help to keep a river clean?
  - a. pick up animals
  - b. pick up trash
  - c. pick up water
  - d. pick up boats



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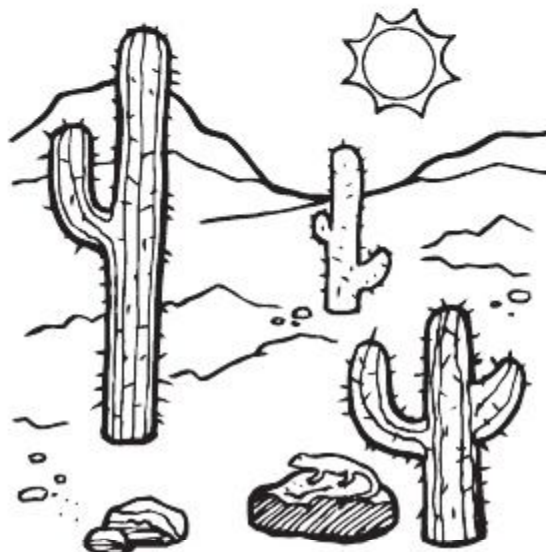
## DESERTS

Can you live in the desert? Yes, but it can be very hot. It can also be very cold.

Deserts are made up of sand or rock. Some do not get much rain. Others are covered in frozen snow. These deserts are called tundra.

Plants can live in the desert. They store water in their roots and leaves. The cactus is a desert plant. It can live for 200 years. Birds live in holes in the cactus.

People can live in the desert, too. But, watch out for the hot sun and always carry water!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Deserts can be very . . .
 

a. rainy.	c. ugly.
b. hot.	d. wet.
2. Tundra is a desert that is covered in . . .
 

a. rocks.	c. leaves.
b. sand.	d. snow.
3. What lives in the cactus?
 

a. birds	c. water
b. snow	d. tundra
4. In this story, *store* means . . .
 

a. a place to shop.	b. a market.
c. groceries.	d. save.



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## WETLANDS

How are a bog, a marsh, and a swamp the same? They are all wetlands.

A wetland is land that is very wet at least some of the time. Plants and animals live there.

The crocodile lives in swamps in Florida. A yellow fly lives in bogs in England. This fly is called the "hairy canary."

People are working to save the wetlands. They try not to build houses on them. They also try not to build roads over them.

Wild grass and birds and bugs live in wetlands. We must keep their homes safe.



### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is not a kind of wetland?
  - a bog
  - a marsh
  - an ocean
  - a swamp
- A wetland is land that is wet . . .
  - all the time.
  - some of the time.
  - never.
  - in the spring.
- The hairy canary is a . . .
  - crocodile.
  - wetland.
  - wild grass.
  - fly.
- We should protect wetlands to . . .
  - keep plants and animals safe.
  - build roads over.
  - build houses on.
  - drink water.





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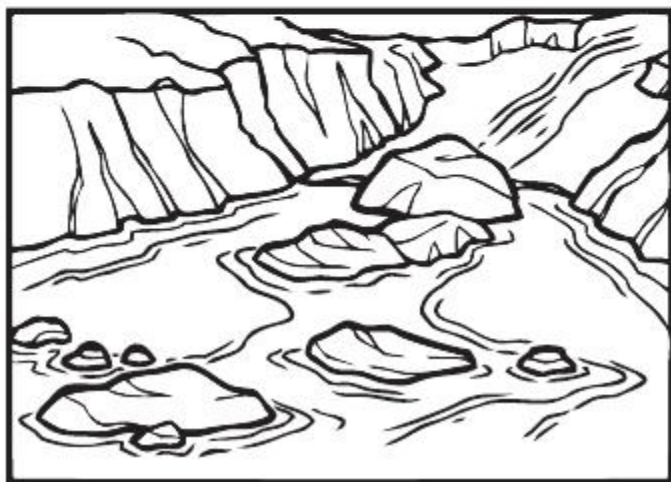
## GLACIERS

What do you call a long, blue river of ice? A glacier!

Most fresh water on Earth is in glaciers. Some glaciers never melt. You can find glaciers in the mountains. Others cover big areas of continents. They are home to snow fleas and ice worms.

The top part of a glacier is snow. The middle part is mixed snow and ice. The bottom part is ice.

You can take a class to learn how to walk on a glacier. You need special boots. You also need a rope and an ice axe. Then, you can walk on a river of ice!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where is most fresh water on Earth?
  - a. in oceans
  - b. in lakes
  - c. in rivers
  - d. in glaciers
2. In this story, the word *cover* means . . .
  - a. spread over.
  - b. a bedspread.
  - c. a quilt.
  - d. put your hands over your head.
3. Glaciers are made up of . . .
  - a. snow, ice, and sand.
  - b. snow and ice.
  - c. snow, fleas, and ice worms.
  - d. rivers and mountains.
4. What do you need to walk on a glacier?
  - a. slippers and a rope
  - b. boots and an ice axe
  - c. snow fleas
  - d. boots and a raft



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## RAINFORESTS

Rainforests give us air. They give us plants and animals and medicine.

A rainforest has many trees. It gets a lot of rain. Many kinds of animals and plants live here.

Wild pigs live in rainforests. So do snakes. It is also home to bugs and birds.

Trees here can grow to be 150 feet tall. Plants have big, bright flowers. Some rainforests are home to tall bamboo.

People make pills out of tree bark and plants in the rainforest. These pills help many people. We must save our rainforests.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Rainforests do not give us . . .
  - a. plants.
  - b. medicine.
  - c. bamboo.
  - d. burgers.
2. What animals live in rainforests?
  - a. whales
  - b. wild pigs
  - c. sharks
  - d. ice worms
3. In this story, the word *bark* means . . .
  - a. what a dog says.
  - b. to skin your knee.
  - c. a tree covering.
  - d. woof.
4. The rainforest gives people . . .
  - a. medicine.
  - b. snow.
  - c. ice.
  - d. sand.





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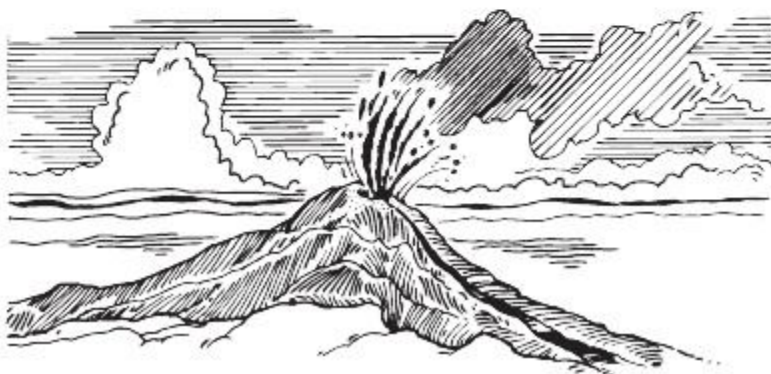
## VOLCANOES

Where does the word volcano come from? It comes from the Roman god of fire. His name was Vulcan.

A volcano is a mountain that blows its top! Hot lava pushes through the mountain. Then, it flows down the side.

Some volcanoes are millions of years old. Some sleep. Others are active. It is hard to tell when a volcano will blow.

Many volcanoes have snow. If they blow their tops, hot lava melts the snow. It burns up trees and plants, too, just like a fire.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. The word *volcano* comes from the Roman god of . . .
  - a. heat.
  - b. burn.
  - c. fire.
  - d. sun.
2. What pushes through a mountain to make a volcano?
  - a. ice
  - b. fire
  - c. snow
  - d. lava
3. In this story, the word *hard* means . . .
  - a. difficult.
  - b. solid.
  - c. wood.
  - d. mean.
4. Who is Vulcan?
  - a. a volcano
  - b. a tree
  - c. a mountain
  - d. a Roman god



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## CANYONS

Have you ever heard of the Grand Canyon? It is one of the largest canyons in the world.

A canyon is a deep crack in the earth. There are cliffs on each side. Sometimes, a river flows through it.

Many animals live in canyons. Grey squirrels make their homes there. Rabbits and mice live there. So do hawks and owls. Long ago, people used to live in caves above canyons.

The Grand Canyon is pretty. It is red and orange and yellow. You can take a train to see it. You can ride a mule down to the bottom of it. You can even raft on the river that goes through the Grand Canyon.



### STORY QUESTIONS

- In this story, the word *grand* means . . .
  - small.
  - tiny.
  - large.
  - ugly.
- On each side of a canyon, you will see . . .
  - cliffs.
  - rivers.
  - mountains.
  - trains.
- Who used to live in caves?
  - mules
  - rafts
  - owls
  - people
- What can you ride to the bottom of the Grand Canyon?
  - a train
  - a mule
  - a river
  - a rabbit



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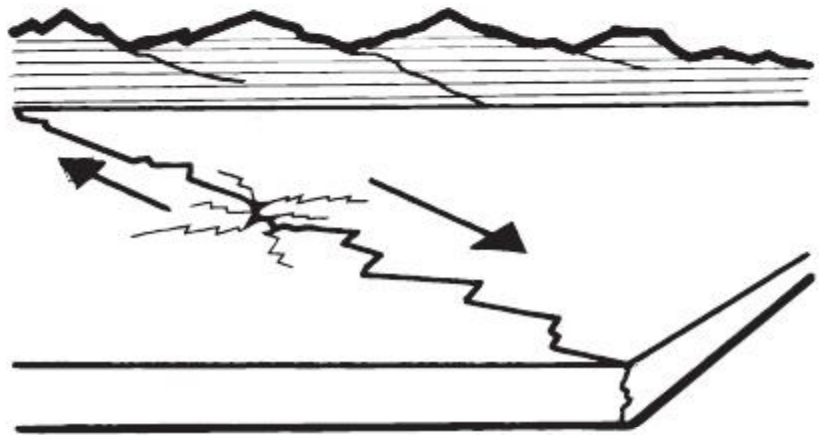
## EARTHQUAKES

The floor shakes. Dishes fall and break. It's an earthquake!

The surface of the earth has plates. These plates bump into each other. Then, there is an earthquake.

Earthquakes can be small.  
Others are big. They knock  
down houses. They also knock  
down trees.

Earthquakes mean danger.  
When you feel one, get under a  
table or desk. Cover your head  
with your hands. Stay calm.  
Soon, the shaking will stop.



### STORY QUESTIONS

- In this story, *plates* mean . . .
  - dishes.
  - rocks in the earth.
  - bowls.
  - floor.
- Earthquakes happen when . . .
  - dishes break.
  - houses fall.
  - floors shake.
  - plates in the earth bump into each other.
- If there is an earthquake, get under a . . .
  - table.
  - tree.
  - house.
  - floor.
- In an earthquake, you should . . .
  - go outside.
  - cry.
  - stay calm.
  - bump into each other.





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## TORNADOES

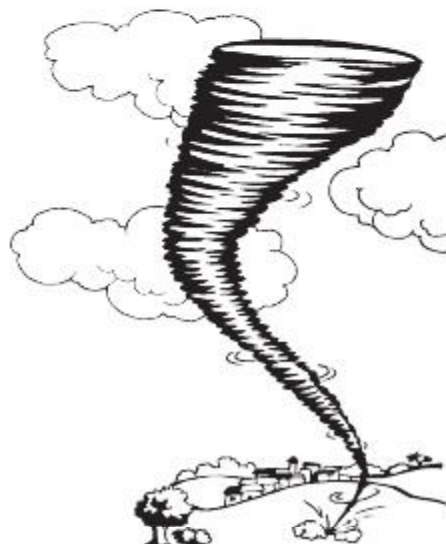
Have you ever seen a cloud that spins? This is a tornado.

Tornadoes come from storms. Wind blows a cloud across the land. It can blow 300 miles per hour.

Tornadoes can hit the earth. They pick up houses and cars. Then, they drop them somewhere else.

Most tornadoes happen during spring and summer. If a tornado comes to town, go to the safest place you can with an adult.

Come out when the tornado is gone. Tornadoes can damage houses and hurt animals and people. Be careful!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. A tornado is a cloud that . . .
  - a. dances.
  - b. runs.
  - c. spins.
  - d. hits.
2. Tornadoes can blow . . .
  - a. 300 miles an hour.
  - b. 30 miles an hour.
  - c. 3,000 miles an hour.
  - d. 3 miles an hour.
3. Most tornadoes are in . . .
  - a. winter.
  - b. spring.
  - c. fall and summer.
  - d. spring and summer.
4. In a tornado, you should stay in . . .
  - a. a tree.
  - b. a safe place.
  - c. a playground.
  - d. a tent.



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## HURRICANES

What kind of storm has an eye? A hurricane!

A hurricane is a big storm. It gets heat and energy from warm water in the ocean. This makes a strong wind.

Hurricanes spin around an eye. It is the center. It is calm and quiet. But watch out! The wind will start again.

Hurricanes bring a lot of rain and big waves. Sometimes, they flood streets and houses. They rip down trees.

Stay inside if there is a hurricane. Stay away from glass. Get ready to leave if the police ask you to!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. In this story, eye means . . .
  - a. watch something.
  - b. something on your face.
  - c. a hurricane.
  - d. the center of a hurricane.
2. Hurricanes get energy from . . .
  - a. houses.
  - b. the ocean.
  - c. the storm.
  - d. their eyes.
3. Hurricanes bring . . .
  - a. earthquakes.
  - b. tornadoes.
  - c. big waves.
  - d. big trees.
4. In a hurricane, you should . . .
  - a. stay inside.
  - b. stay outside.
  - c. go surfing.
  - d. sit by a window.



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## TSUNAMI

"Surf's up!" You might want to say this in a tsunami. This is not a good thing.

Earthquakes and volcanoes can happen under the sea. They cause a tsunami. Then, ocean waves get very big. A tsunami is not just one wave. It is many waves. They can move as fast as 450 miles per hour.

These waves can hit land. Then, houses and stores are smashed. People and animals are hurt.

If you live near the ocean, be aware. If there is an earthquake, wait until it is safe. Then, move to high ground. You don't want to surf these waves!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Tsunamis happen because of . . .
 

a. tornadoes.	c. earthquakes.
b. rocks.	d. fire.
2. A tsunami is . . .
 

a. one small wave.	c. many big waves.
b. one big wave.	d. many small waves.
3. In this story, wave means . . .
 

a. water.	c. squiggly line.
b. bye-bye.	d. surfboard.
4. What should you do before a tsunami?
 

a. surf	b. swim
c. float	d. move to high ground





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## BLIZZARDS

Snow is pretty. It is fun to play in snow. But too much snow can cause a blizzard.

Cold and strong wind makes a blizzard. A lot of snow falls or blows. Sometimes, you can't see in front of you!

Blizzards can last for hours. They can shut off your power. Make sure you have a flashlight and a radio with a battery.

In a blizzard, go home. Stay inside and stay warm. If you can't get inside, build a snow cave. Never eat snow in a blizzard. It will make you even colder!



### STORY QUESTIONS

- A blizzard is caused by . . .
  - wind and rain.
  - cold and waves.
  - cold and wind.
  - wind and waves.
- In a blizzard, you would wear . . .
  - pants, a coat, and a hat.
  - pants and a T-shirt.
  - a T-shirt and a warm hat.
  - a bathing suit.
- In a blizzard, make sure you have a . . .
  - flashlight.
  - snowboard.
  - sled.
  - snowball.
- If you eat snow in a blizzard, you will get . . .
  - warmer.
  - hungry.
  - colder.
  - sleepy.