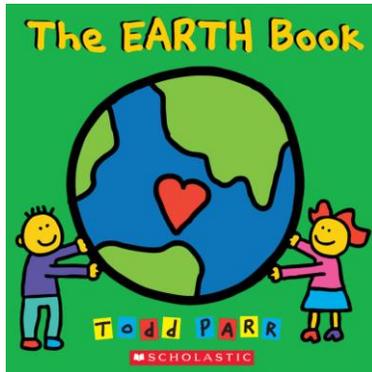


Book: The EARTH Book by Todd Parr (Ages 3-6)

Introducing the book:



Exploring the Cover

Ask children to describe what they see. What do they think this book is about? Why is there a heart in the middle of the planet? Tell children this book is about our home, the Planet Earth, and that we should take care of it.

Building Background

Play a game of TRUE or FALSE with children before reading the book. Which is TRUE (the things we do to help us to take care of our planet) and which is FALSE (the things we do that don't help us take care of our planet):

- Keep the water running when you brush your teeth.
- Turn off the lights if you are leaving the room.
- Throw your garbage away on the floor.
- Recycle glass, paper, and plastic.
- Always use more water when you are taking a bath.

Reading the book:

As you read the story, explain the terms they might not have heard of, ex: green energy, natural resources, etc. Ask children if their families do some of the things listed in the book. Ex: if they bring their own shopping bags to the grocery store.

After reading the book:

Movements & Games

There are many ways to move in synch with the planet. Here is one of those imaginative scenarios to get children more involved:

Flying with the wind

Children start by standing still. Tell them to imagine that the wind is blowing softly, barely moving them. The wind gets stronger, and the children move faster, eventually spinning. The wind softens gradually, and the children slow down until they stop moving.

Arts & Crafts

Feeling the energy: children get an idea of how wind power works with this pinwheel craft.

Here's what you need:

One piece of Square-shaped paper

1 Straw

1 Pushpin

Scissors

Pencil

Ruler



Instructions:

- Using a ruler, mark the center of your square paper with a pencil. Suppose you do not have a ruler; eyeball the center point. Next, use your ruler to draw a diagonal line from each corner of the paper, halfway to the center dot you just made.
- Use the scissors to cut down the diagonal lines you just marked on your paper.
- Fold every other point into the center dot and put a pushpin through the paper. This step can be tricky because the points like to escape if you are not holding them tight, so patience is key.
- Hold the pushpin with gathered points in one hand tightly and use your other hand to push the remainder of the pin through a straw. We used paper craft straws for these pinwheels, but you could also attach your pinwheel to a plastic straw or a pencil. Once your pushpin is through the straw, use a little bit of masking tape to make sure no little fingers get pickled by the pin.

References and resources:

<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/simple-paper-pinwheel-craft-1250766>