



Our Earth

Learn about pollution, recycling, and four types of ecosystems—deserts, mountains, oceans, and rainforests.

Recycling

With your child, learn how to recycle paper, metal, glass, and plastic in your home and community. Find out where recyclable materials can be dropped off, and recycle household trash. Talk about the three Rs of waste control: reduce, reuse, and recycle.



You can find these Waterford.org books and practice pages—and many more—in the **Resources & Activities** tab at mentor.waterford.org.

Desert Diorama

Put some sand in a shoebox. Use play dough to form models of plant and animal life that would be found in the desert. Add them to the desert scene. You can do this for other ecosystems as well.

PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

Ingredients

- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup flour
- Water
- Food coloring (optional)

Directions

- Mix salt and flour in an unbreakable bowl.
- In another bowl, combine water with a few drops of food coloring. Slowly add the water mixture to the flour mixture. Continue to mix and knead dough until it is smooth and elastic without being sticky. Store in a plastic bag and refrigerate.



Rainforest Terrarium

Put some dirt in a jar and plant a leafy plant in the dirt. Water the plant and put the lid on the jar. Make sure it has plenty of light. Observe the growth of the plant and discuss how water is recycled in the system, much like water is recycled in a rainforest.

Make a Mountain

Make a mountain out of sand or dirt and pour water on it. Observe what happens. Discuss with your child how rain and melting snow erode the mountain and make streams and gullies.

Read

Take a trip to the library or find books online. Look for books about ecosystems, pollution, and recycling that you and your child can read together. Here are some books to consider:

- *It Rained on the Desert Today* by Ken and Debby Buchanan
- *The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rainforest* by Lynne Cherry
- *And Still the Turtle Watched* by Sheila MacGill-Callahan

Waterford Books

You can find this book about ecosystems in the **Resources & Activities** tab at mentor.waterford.org.

- *Where in the World Would You Go Today?* by Cynthia Belnap

