



Places on Earth

Learn about four ecosystems: polar lands, wetlands, backyards, and prairies.

Freezer Polar Land

Create your own polar ecosystem! Fill a wide, shallow glass or plastic dish with dirt. Saturate the dirt with water, and set it in the freezer. After it is frozen, retrieve it from the freezer. Use ice cubes and salt to build on the polar land (salt melts ice, so if you use a little on an ice cube and then place the salted surface on another icy surface, they will freeze together). Talk about how people and animals have adapted so they can live in polar lands. If you have plastic toy animals that live in polar lands, you can place them in your ecosystem.

Wetlands

Wetlands are home to many animals such as ducks, frogs, turtles, fish, and insects. Wetlands help clean the earth. They are like sponges, soaking up water and filtering it. Get an ordinary sponge and a bowl. Fill a jar or a glass with water, and add some dirt to create muddy water. Slowly and carefully pour the muddy water, a little bit at a time, into the sponge. What type of water comes out the bottom of the sponge? Did the sponge filter the water?

Backyard Safari

Go exploring in your backyard or a nearby park. Count how many different types of living things you find. Observe the way things change daily and as the seasons progress.

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

Prairie Stories

Use the play dough to form plants and animals that would be found in the prairie. Take them to a grassy area and create a prairie. If you'd like, take along a notebook and pencil to write or draw the story you've created.

PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

Ingredients

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

Directions

Mix salt and flour in a 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.



Read

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

- *Creatures at My Feet* by Sherry Neidigh
- *Butternut Hollow Pond* by Brian Heinz
- *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess

Waterford Books

You can find these Earth books in the **Resources & Activities** tab at mentor.waterford.org.

- *Your Backyard* by Cynthia Belnap
- *Nineteen Around the World* by Shelly Hurst Lonni
- *Where in the World Would You Go Today?* by Cynthia Belnap