

Earth Day: An Alphabet Book

by Gary Kowalski

Celebrating Earth Day through heartwarming full-color pages filled with exotic and diverse animals and plants in alphabetic order.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What are you thankful for on Earth Day?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what season it is?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Earth Day: An Alphabet Book*

- alligators: a large reptile that lives near water
- apricots: a small round fruit that is soft and furry
- beagles: small dog with drooping ears
- crawdads: same as crayfish
- groundhogs: a brownish rodent found in North America
- glaciers: a large mass of ice and compacted snow
- grasslands: grass covered land, like a pasture
- hazelnuts: an edible nut from a hazel tree
- icicles: frozen pieces of dripping water, usually found on roofs and overhangs
- iguanas: a large plant-eating lizard
- juniper: an evergreen tree or bush with purple cones
- junebugs: a small bug with wings
- kumquats: a small edible fruit
- licorice: dried black root of a plant
- milkweed: a flowering plant that has a milky fluid in the seed pods
- mistletoes: a parasitic bush that grows on trees and has red berries
- narwhals: small arctic whale with a spotted body
- nasturtiums: a showy ornamental flower
- ocelots: small wildcat resembling a leopard
- peonies: a large ornamental plant with large flowers
- persimmons: a juicy orange-red tropical fruit
- quahogs: a thick-shelled edible clam
- salmon: a large food fish that spawns in rivers
- sassafras: a North American tree with small bluish fruits and aromatic bark
- tulipwood: the light soft wood of the tulip tree
- urchins: a small marine invertebrate animal
- zinnias: a plant of the daisy family with large colorful flowers
- zucchini: a small summer squash, like a cucumber

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did they give thanks?
- What things started with the letter A? B? C?
- What does the word daisies start with? Elephant?
- What was on the page with the groundhogs? Hippos?
- What were they thankful for on the letter K page? L?
- Mountain started with which letter?
- Can you name other things that start with the letters N, O and P?
- Describe what items were on the letter pages Q, R and S.
- What letters are at the end of the alphabet? What items start with those letters?



Do

Alphabet Sort

Gather items in your classroom or outside that can be sorted by the beginning letter of each name. As a group, decide which letter each item starts with. If desired, print out each letter on a piece of paper. Lay each paper out and have the children place each item on the correct letter.