DISASTER ZONE

LANDSLIDES



pogo

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1
What Is a Landslide? 4

CHAPTER 2
What Causes Landslides? 10

CHAPTER 3
Deadly Landslides 18

ACTIVITIES & TOOLS
Try This! 22
Glossary 23
Index 24
To Learn More 24

teacher's inspection only



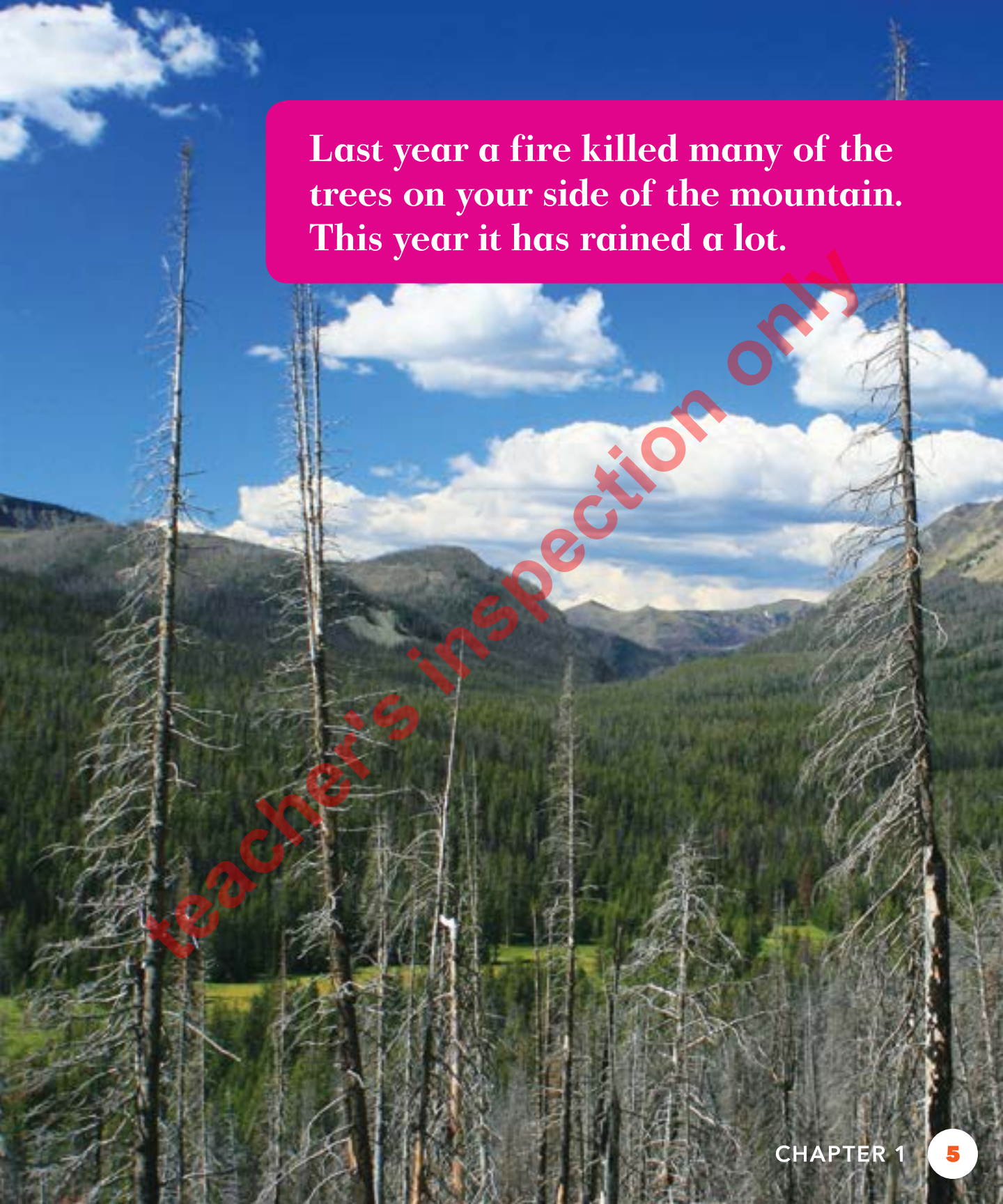
CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS A LANDSLIDE?

Imagine you live in the mountains. Your house sits at the base.



teacher's inspection only



Last year a fire killed many of the trees on your side of the mountain. This year it has rained a lot.

teacher's inspection only

Suddenly you hear a low rumbling. You look out the window. Rocks, wood, and mud tumble down the **slope**.

It's a landslide!

DID YOU KNOW?

Landslides move fast. They can move up to 35 miles (56 kilometers) per hour!





teacher's inspection only



teacher's inspection only



teacher's inspection only



A landslide happens when a large amount of rock, earth, and other material moves down a slope.

Mudslides are a kind of landslide. They happen when there has been a lot of rain. The rain mixes with **debris**. It makes a **slurry**.

DID YOU KNOW?

An **avalanche** is like a landslide, but it is made of snow.

teacher's inspection only

ACTIVITIES & TOOLS

TRY THIS!

MAKE YOUR OWN LANDSLIDE

You can make your own landslide! This activity recreates the effect of a lot of rain on a loose dirt slope.

What You Need:

- an outdoor slope made mostly of dirt
- a cardboard house
- a hose hooked up to water
- a sprinkler nozzle



1. **Find an area outside where there is a dirt slope and loosen the dirt a bit. If you cannot find a dirt slope, you can create one by making a hill of dirt.**
2. **Put the cardboard house in the middle of the slope.**
3. **Put the sprinkler nozzle on the hose.**
4. **Turn on the water.**
5. **Make it "rain" by sprinkling the water near the top of the slope.**
6. **Watch how the rain makes the dirt move down the slope.**
7. **Watch how the rain makes the house move. (This may take several minutes).**

teacher's inspection only

GLOSSARY

avalanche: A large mass of snow and ice sliding down a mountainside or over a cliff.

debris: Anything that a landslide picks up as it moves along; it could be rocks, dirt, trash, wood, or other things.

geologists: Scientists that study rocks and soil and how they move.

gravity: The natural force that causes things to fall.

predict: To guess about what might happen in the future.

satellite: A man-made object that orbits a planet; many satellites are used to photograph Earth from space.

slope: Ground that goes up or down.

slurry: Flowing mud.

trigger: Something that causes another thing to happen.

valley: The area of low land between two mountains or hills.

Venezuela: A country in the northern part of South America.

teacher's inspection only

