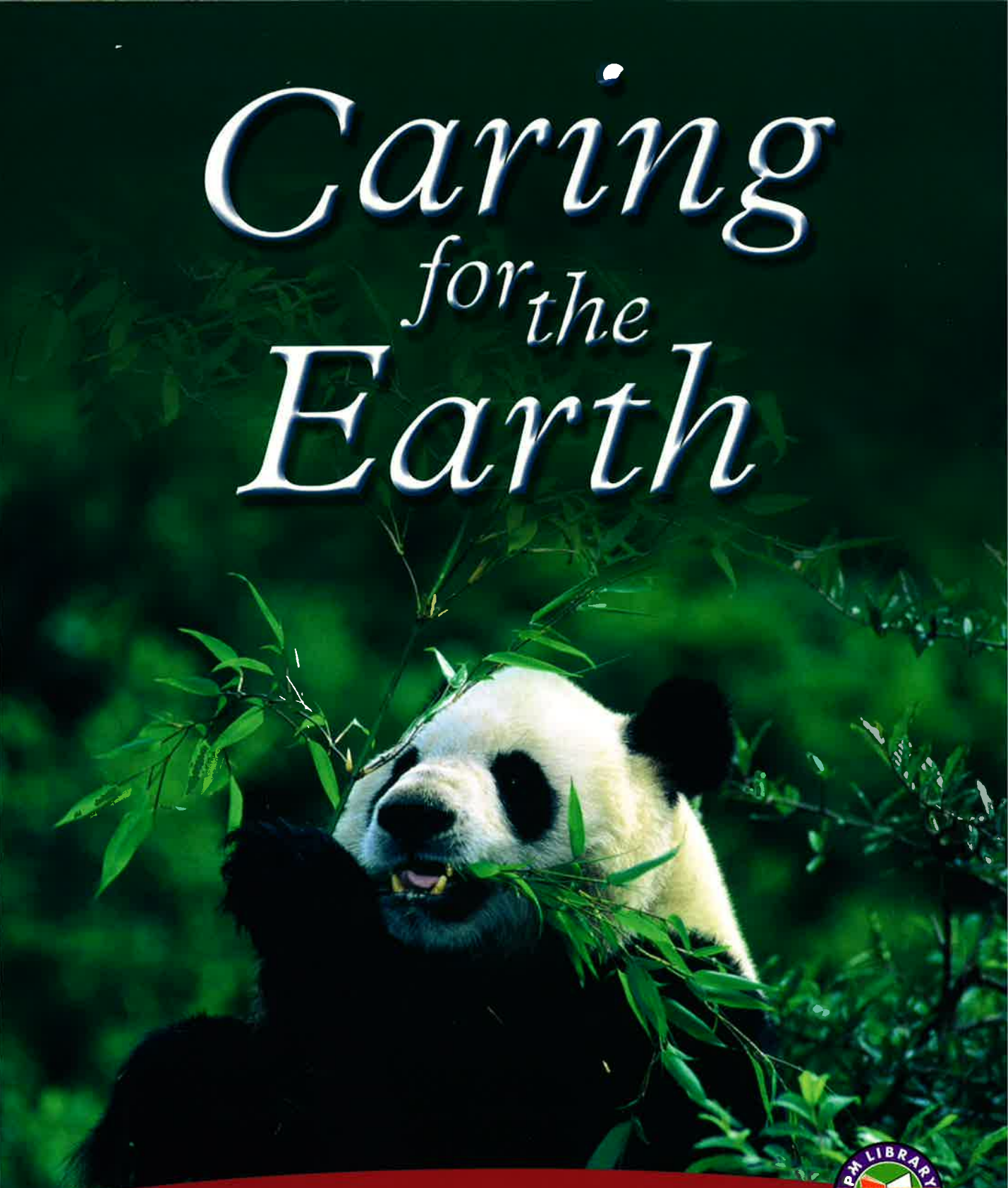
Caring for the Earth



Lara Whitehead

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Caring for the Earth

Key vocabulary

earth, caring, soil, water, habitats, together, diseases, erosion, pollution, poison, solar, clean, healthier, environment, understanding

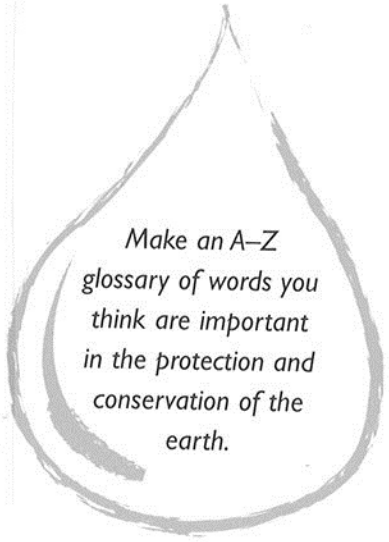
Grammatical conventions

- Conjunctions or sentence joiners: and, but
- Adjectives ending in 'y': dirty, smelly, smoky, healthy
- Asking questions

Spelling

- 'y' as an 'ee' sound: factory, healthy, many, recently, dirty, slowly
- Adding 'ed' to adjectives and verbs: turned, tipped, decided, stepped, discovered
- Adverbs 'ly': quickly, cheaply, suddenly, especially
- 'tion' and 'sion' word endings: pollution, erosion, permission, revolution
- Compound words: anyone, topsoil, today

Creative thinking task – Knowledge





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Introduction

In the past, people have used many of the Earth's resources – such as plants, water and air – without much thought. We have cut down forests to build houses and burned oil or coal for heating. We've planted crops year after year to grow food for our families. We've blown factory smoke into the sky and tipped rubbish into the oceans.

More recently, people all around the world have realised that we must take better care of the Earth if we wish to have a healthy planet.



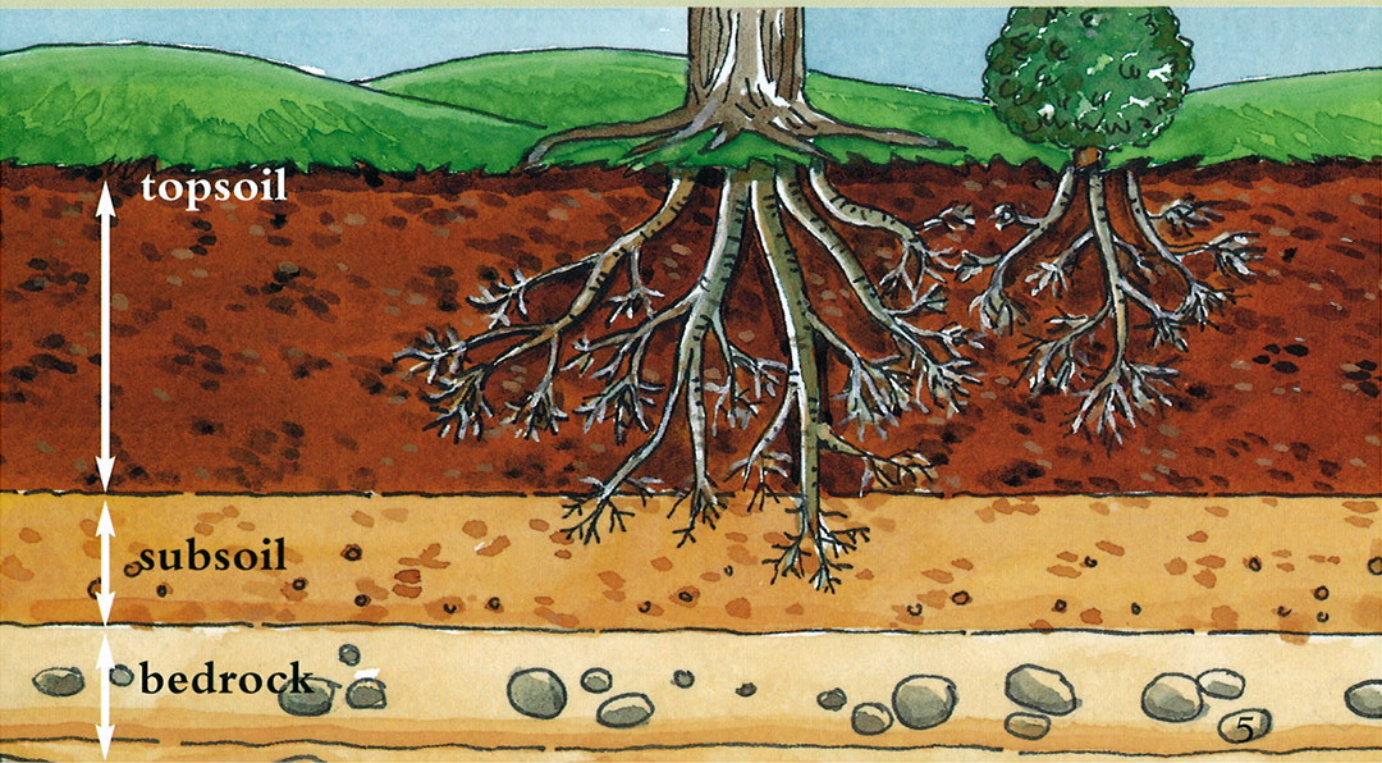
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Chapter 1

Is Dirt Just Dirt?

'Don't get dirty!' Has anyone ever said that to you? We often think about dirt as a bad thing, something to sweep up or wash away. But even dirt, or **soil** as it is also called, is important, and it needs to be cared for.

Topsoil is the top layer of dirt which contains most of the soil's **nutrients**. Plants use the nutrients in topsoil to grow, and without good topsoil, many plants cannot live.

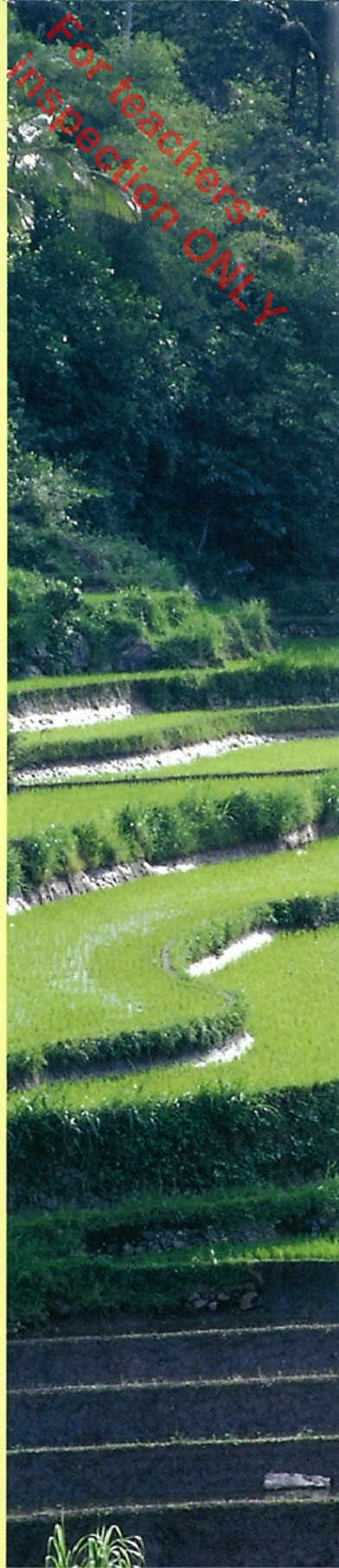


Erosion is what happens when wind or water carries the topsoil away. Eventually, a badly eroded area will lose all of its topsoil and nothing will grow. Often, this can mean that there is not enough food for either the people or the wildlife in that area.

Many cultures have learned how to keep the soil healthy and prevent erosion on their land. Terracing is an ancient way of creating flat areas of land on very steep slopes. The terrace walls stop the soil from sliding down the hill and help keep the water near the plants. Terracing was used by the ancient Chinese, Africans, Incas and many other people around the world. It is still used today.



Severe erosion has made this gully dusty and desolate.



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When steep slopes are terraced, the land becomes useful for growing plants.

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Tacha's Wall

Michu slowly rolled another stone over to his father, Tacha. They had spent the morning carefully choosing each stone for the rock wall they were building. Tacha was the master builder and he decided where to place each stone. The wall had to be strong. If the rocks did not fit together perfectly, the entire wall could be washed away in the next rainstorm. Then they would lose all of their crops in this field and the ones below. Michu knew that **landslides** like this had happened before, but never from one of his father's walls. They always lasted.

The sun was hot. Michu sat on one of the large stones. The mountain below looked like stairs, with all of the stepped fields growing crops of potatoes and corn.



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'Father, why are we building another terrace?' asked Michu.

'Four babies were born this summer, Michu,' said Tacha. 'We will need to grow more food. Building a new terrace is the only way to make room for the extra crops.'