Description:
This 3-D graphic organizer, called a foldable, is a powerful learning tool to help students visualize complex information about the Earth, including what scientists think a cross-section of the Earth looks like, time on Earth, the reason for the seasons, and Earth’s place in the solar system. This foldable is a natural extension of The Restless Earth and The Magic School Bus Inside the Earth. This foldable will take more than one 45-minute session to complete, and can be done in conjunction with a Webquest about the Earth. (To find interesting Web sites see the Toolkit Resources and References.) Students should complete a vocabulary foldable prior to attempting this more complex foldable.

Download, print, and copy the instructions and foldables. Read the instructions on page 4 carefully before you begin, and then create a foldable as a model for the students to follow.

Allow students to personalize their foldables by
• coloring and labeling the oceans and continents;
• drawing, coloring, and labeling the sun, planets, and asteroid belt;
• coloring the crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core of the Earth; and
• creating a time and seasons vocabulary foldable with personalized definitions and illustrations for the day, month, year, and seasons.

The 3-D graphic organizers (called “foldables”) presented in this lesson were adapted from the work of Dinah Zike.
Inside, small flaps closed.
Inside, small flaps opened.
Step 1.
Fold an 11” x 17” piece of paper from each outside edge into the middle.

Step 2.
Print out page 5 onto an 8-1/2” x 11” piece of paper. Cut in half lengthwise.

Step 3.
Glue the two halves of the Earth from Step 2.

Step 4.
Open the 11” x 17” paper.

Step 5.
Glue page 6 to the middle section of the 11” x 17” paper.

Step 6.
Cut page 7 where indicated and glue to the left flap of the 11” x 17” paper.

Step 7.
Trim 1/2” off the top of a new 8-1/2” x 11” page. Fold lengthwise. Cut left half into four even horizontal sections.

Step 8.
Glue right half of page onto right side of 11” x 17” spread. Match up the bottom right corner for positioning.

Step 9.
Fold over flaps and label.

Step 10.
To close, fold left and right flaps into the middle.

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