

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Word Meanings

Read the short story and answer each question.



What Is a Glacier?

A glacier is a huge body of ice that moves slowly across land.

It forms in very cold places where snow builds up over many years. As more snow falls, it presses down into thick, heavy ice.

Glaciers are powerful.

They move so slowly you might not see them shift. But over time, they can shape mountains and valleys. This is called erosion, which means the land is worn down or carved out.

Some glaciers look like frozen rivers.

They wind through mountains like icy paths. Others are flat and wide, covering large parts of land.

Glaciers hold a lot of Earth's freshwater.

When glaciers melt, they make streams, rivers, and lakes. That water is important for people, plants, and animals.



Name: _____

What Is a Glacier?

1. What does the word "glacier" mean in this text?

- A. A frozen lake that never melts
- B. A big chunk of slowly moving ice
- C. A deep hole in the land
- D. A type of tall mountain

2. What does "erosion" mean in the second paragraph?

- A. The ice becomes smooth
- B. The land is carved or worn away
- C. Rocks turn into ice
- D. Water freezes quickly

3. Fill in the blank:

Glaciers move slowly but they can change the _____.

4. How do the words in the text help you understand what a glacier is?

5. Why is the word "erosion" important in this text?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: K

Lexile Level: 290L-440L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational (Earth Science)

Introducing the Text

"Today we're going to read about glaciers—huge sheets of ice that shape the land. While we read, we'll look closely at tricky words like 'glacier' and 'erosion' and figure out what they mean using clues in the text."

Vocabulary: glacier, erosion, valley, freshwater, press

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about places that are cold and snowy?
 2. Have you ever heard of a glacier before? What do you think it might be?
 3. What do you think the word "erosion" might mean?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How are glaciers made?
 2. What is one way a glacier can change the land?
 3. What happens when a glacier melts?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did the text help you understand the word "erosion"?
 2. What kind of water comes from glaciers?
 3. Why is it helpful to use clues in a sentence to figure out new words?
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Activity Idea

Have students create an "Ice Word Detective Card." On one side, they write the word "glacier" and draw a picture of it. On the back, they write what the word means using their own words and a sentence from the story. Repeat with the word "erosion." Then students pair up and quiz each other using their detective cards to reinforce vocabulary through conversation.

