

C. Reading

A Letter from Mother Earth

Dear children,

All of you are bright children. You know me well. For centuries, poets and great thinkers have written in praise of me. They call me Mother Earth with love and affection. That is because, for hundreds of years, I have taken good care of people, just as a mother takes care of her children.

Do you know how old I am? I am 4.6 billion years old, much older than your father, your grandfather and any of your great grandfathers.

I give you food to eat, like rice, wheat, and fruits. You also wear clothes made of cotton and live in houses made of leaves, wood, and bricks; all of which come from me. Long ago, humans used to worship me as a goddess and they used to care for me. But now they have big axes to cut my trees down; and cars and buses to pollute my air with smoke and fumes.

They don't respect me any more.

Your teacher must have told you how my forests and mountains help to make rain and keep life on earth going. But nowadays, even my mountains and forests are being destroyed. You humans are yourselves destroying my bountiful forests and making my lands barren. Don't you understand that I need them to give you enough rain? Without rain, you will not have any food to survive.



I am very sad about what is being done to me. That is why I am talking to you. You will all grow up and become good citizens and I want you to take care of me. Plant more trees in your houses, in your schools, and in your towns and villages.

Think now, after all you have just one Mother Earth.

I trust you will take care of me well.

Yours lovingly,
Mother Earth



Glossary

affection (n):	a feeling of liking and caring about someone or something.
billion (n):	1,000,000,000
pollute (v):	to make air, water or land too dirty and dangerous for people to use in a safe way
destroy (v):	to damage so severely that it no longer exists
bountiful (adj):	available in large quantities
barren (adj):	barren land is dry and plants cannot grow there
survive (v):	to stay alive

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What is the change in the attitude of the human beings towards Mother Earth?
2. How do forests and mountains help to make rain and keep life on earth moving?
3. Do you love her as much as you love your mother? If so, what are you doing to save her?
4. Write a reply to her expressing your concern and display it on the wall magazine.
5. What is the most touching thing that you find in this letter?



Self Assessment

How well have I understood this unit?

Read and tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

Indicators	Yes	Somewhat	No
I was able to talk about my feelings on seeing a snake (Face sheet)			
I read and understood the text:			
A. Snakes in India			
B. Trees (poem)			
C. A Letter from Mother Earth			
I was able to do the exercises on prefixes and suffixes given under 'Vocabulary'.			
I was able to understand the usage of 'until', 'as long as', 'subject and predicate' and did the exercises given under 'Grammar'.			
I was able to prepare a poster given under 'Writing'.			
I was able to do the activity given under Study Skills.			
I listened to and understood the story "The Farmer and the Cobra" and did the exercises given under 'Listening and Speaking'.			
I was able to complete the 'Project Work' and present it to the class.			

