

# Earth Day: An Alphabet Book

by Gary Kowalski

Celebrating Earth Day through heartwarming full-color pages filled with exotic and diverse animals and plants in alphabetic order.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What are you thankful for on Earth Day?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what season it is?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Earth Day: An Alphabet Book*

- alligators: a large reptile that lives near water
- apricots: a small round fruit that is soft and furry
- beagles: small dog with drooping ears
- crawdads: same as crayfish
- groundhogs: a brownish rodent found in North America
- glaciers: a large mass of ice and compacted snow
- grasslands: grass covered land, like a pasture
- hazelnuts: an edible nut from a hazel tree
- icicles: frozen pieces of dripping water, usually found on roofs and overhangs
- iguanas: a large plant-eating lizard
- juniper: an evergreen tree or bush with purple cones
- junebugs: a small bug with wings
- kumquats: a small edible fruit
- licorice: dried black root of a plant
- milkweed: a flowering plant that has a milky fluid in the seed pods
- mistletoes: a parasitic bush that grows on trees and has red berries
- narwhals: small arctic whale with a spotted body
- nasturtiums: a showy ornamental flower
- ocelots: small wildcat resembling a leopard
- peonies: a large ornamental plant with large flowers
- persimmons: a juicy orange-red tropical fruit
- quahogs: a thick-shelled edible clam
- salmon: a large food fish that spawns in rivers
- sassafras: a North American tree with small bluish fruits and aromatic bark
- tulipwood: the light soft wood of the tulip tree
- urchins: a small marine invertebrate animal
- zinnias: a plant of the daisy family with large colorful flowers
- zucchini: a small summer squash, like a cucumber

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did they give thanks?
- What things started with the letter A? B? C?
- What does the word daisies start with? Elephant?
- What was on the page with the groundhogs? Hippos?
- What were they thankful for on the letter K page? L?
- Mountain started with which letter?
- Can you name other things that start with the letters N, O and P?
- Describe what items were on the letter pages Q, R and S.
- What letters are at the end of the alphabet? What items start with those letters?



**Do**

## Alphabet Sort

Gather items in your classroom or outside that can be sorted by the beginning letter of each name. As a group, decide which letter each item starts with. If desired, print out each letter on a piece of paper. Lay each paper out and have the children place each item on the correct letter.