

Salt of the Earth

GOALS

Comprehension

Is this book fiction or non-fiction? How do you know? What is the difference? Make predictions about the story from the title and front cover illustration.

Vocabulary

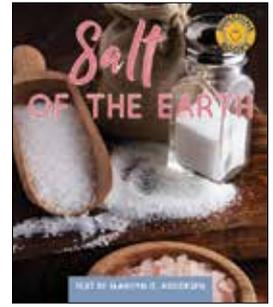
Focus High-frequency Words: can, good, make, not, out, put, some, when
Focus Content Words: animals, body, eggs, farmers, meat, popcorn, salt, sweat, taste, water

Phonics

Letters and Sounds: Recognise and produce words that begin with the same sound: /sw/
Words to Blend and Segment: sweat, sweep, sweet, swing, swim

Fluency

Choral reading with students pointing to the words as they are read.



Salt is important for how our bodies work.

Before Reading

- Ask: What do you see on the cover picture? What do you know about salt? Discuss the different types of salt on the cover. (sea salt flakes, rock salt, table salt)
- Read the title to students and then read it together. Predict what the text might be about. Ask: Is this a fiction or non-fiction book? How do you know? What is the difference? (Fiction is not true and non-fiction may have photos.) Flick through the pages to check.
- Students read the title and the table of contents to give an idea of what is in the text.
- Talk/walk through the pictures. Discuss the ways salt is used or what is happening to the salt on each page. Bring words like *animals, body, eggs, farmers, meat, popcorn, salt, sweat, taste, water* into the conversation.
- Before turning to page 16 ask students how they think the book might end.

Reading the Text

- Read the cover and the title page together. Ask: What is happening to the salt in the photo on the Contents page? On pages 2–3, what are the different foods that have salt on them? Students look for tricky words like *better, popcorn*. Break the words into chunks or syllables, e.g. bet-ter. Students read the text together pointing to the words as they are read.
- On page 5, discuss the pictures and whether students can see the salt or not. Find the words *can* and *can't* in the text. Talk about their meaning. Read the words together.
- Follow this pattern for each page, discussing the pictures, what the different foods or uses of salt are before reading each page.
- On page 16, have students look at the index and find where there is more information about meat. They ask a partner questions about the index. e.g. What page is popcorn on?

After Reading

Check on the accuracy of students' predictions made at the beginning. Invite them to discuss the information. Prompt if needed.

- Students re-tell the text using the pictures on each page as a guide. Discuss the ending. Is salt good for us or not? Why do we need some salt?
- Why do you think the author wrote the book? What have you learnt? How much salt is enough for us? How much is too much?
- Read the fact on the back cover. Link it to the text and pictures on pages 10–11. Have a discussion on preserving fish and meat using salt.

Phonics

- Write words *sweat, sweep, sweet, swing, swim* on the board to practise blending and segmenting the onsets and rimes together as a group, e.g. *sw-eat, sweat*. Brainstorm more words with *sw* to add to the list. e.g. *swan, swamp*. Find *sweat* and *sweet* in the book and discuss their meaning in the context of the story.

Word Study

- Talk about the words *can, good, make, not, out, put, some, when*. Read the flash cards from the inside front cover together. Ask students to find and read these words in the book. Discuss their meaning in context.
- On a piece of paper, students draw a picture showing a way to use salt in the book. They write the matching sentence from the text.
- Brainstorm words that end in *-lt* e.g. *salt, melt, knelt, felt, fault, vault, malt, halt*. Students discuss their meaning.
- On page 13, find *melt* and discuss how it is used in the text.
- Find the words with the */or/* vowel sound, e.g. *for, popcorn, horses*. Talk about the role of *r* in this vowel sound. Together *o* and *r* make */or/*, an *r*-controlled vowel sound.
- Students listen and identify syllables in words and clap as they are spoken, e.g. *pop/corn*. Together listen for one-syllable words in the book to clap, e.g. *salt, fish*. Have students clap two syllable words, e.g. *a/go; sail/ors*.

Fluency

- Choral reading with students pointing to the words as they are read.
- Students choose a page to reread to a partner. They use intonation to make the meaning clear. Their partner summarises what they have read in their own words. Then they swap over.

Writing

- Have students write a new text using the pattern of the text, e.g. *Animals need salt, too. Farmers put out salt blocks for goats. Students share this with a partner.*
- Discuss why avoiding too much salt is a challenge for people. Bring some empty food packaging to school to look at the amount of hidden salt in them. e.g. *crackers, muesli bars, potato chips, biscuits.*
- Make a poster saying *too much salt is not good, some salt is OK.*
- Have students draw and label things they like that are salty. Include some items that have hidden salt that we need to be aware of.