Grade 4 – Assignment for week of (5/11 to 5/15)

Learning about the make-up of the Earth:

Last week we learned how Earth is formed into different land and water features called landforms, this week we will learn about Earth's plates and how its continents move.

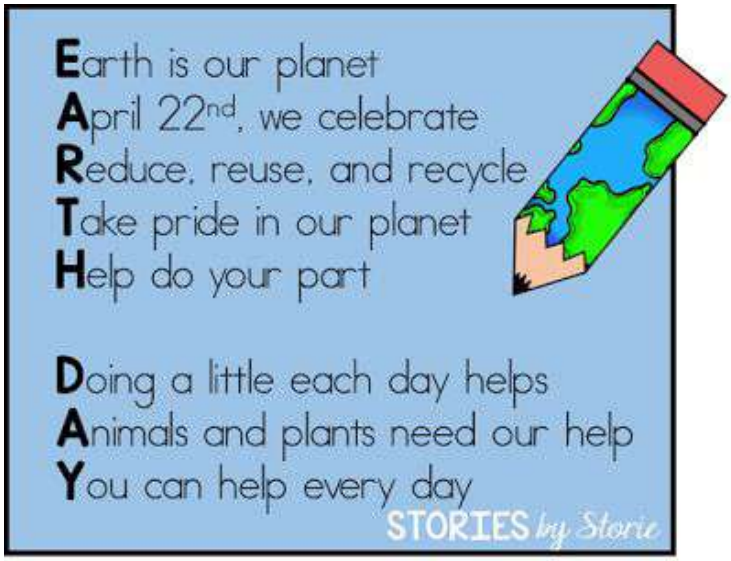
Science Vocabulary Words-

Plates:	Stiff blocks of Earth's crust and upper mantle
Plates Tectonics:	The theory that Earth's crust is made of huge thick plates
Earthquake:	The shaking of the ground when Earth's plates collide or slide
Faults:	A break or crack where the plates or pieces of Earth's crust move
Continental Drift:	The theory of how Earth's continents slowly move over time
Pangea:	A supercontinent, 225 million years old, made of all Earth's land together

Task #1:

Use words from the science vocabulary listed above, to make an **acrostic** telling about the planet Earth. An acrostic uses each letter in the word to describe the word or tell a story about what you are learning. Make an acrostic for (3) vocabulary words.

An example for the word ***Earth Day*** might be:



Task #2:

Read the page below called, "Plates Tectonics and Continental Drift." You will use this information and your science vocabulary to answer questions on the following page called, "Plate Tectonics Response Sheet."

Name_____ **Plate Tectonics and Continental Drift** Date_____

The Earth's rocky outer crust was made billions of years ago. **The theory of plate tectonics** says that the Earth's crust is not a solid shell but is broken up into huge, thick plates. These plates drift on top of the soft mantle that lies below. There are (12) major plates in all.

The theory of plate tectonics explains what happens when the Earth's plates move. Where plates collide, energy is released, and new landforms are produced. On land, mountains rise and volcanoes erupt. As plates pull apart, valleys with volcanoes inside are made. **When plates scrape** together **and slide** past each other, they shake the Earth's surface, **causing earthquakes.**

In 1915, the German geologist and meteorologist Alfred Wegener first proposed the **theory of continental drift**, which states that parts of the Earth's crust are slowly drifting on top of a liquid core. Wegener hypothesized that there was an original, gigantic supercontinent, 200 million years ago, which he named Pangea, meaning "All-earth". **Pangea** was a supercontinent consisting of all of Earth's land masses. His theory is that Pangea broke up in to smaller land masses over time, forming the continents we know today.

Task #3:

Use the information from the previous page entitled, "Plates Tectonics and Continental Drift," and your science vocabulary to answer the questions below on the page entitled, "Plate Tectonics Response Sheet."

Name_____ **Plate Tectonics Response Sheet** Date_____

After reading about Plate Tectonics & Continental Drift answer the following questions:

1. Use a complete sentence to tell what the Theory of Plate Tectonics is.

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2. Use a complete sentence to explain how earthquakes happen.

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3. Use a complete sentence to tell What the Theory of Continental Drift is.

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4. Use a complete sentence to tell about the super-continent called, "Pangea."

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Task #4:

To imagine what Pangea the super-continent looked like 225 million years ago, you can cut along the dotted lines of the continents below and put the pieces back together.