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**Illustrator/Photographer:** James Gulliver Hancock  
 Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2014  
 96 Pages  
 AR Level: 6.6 Lexile: 1050L

**Curriculum Connections:** *Earth Sciences, Social Sciences: Animal Habitats, Paleontology, Archeology, Mythology, Engineering, and Agriculture.*

Excellent for close reading, review of book features, and building band 4-6 complex vocabulary.

This fascinating book allows the reader to explore what lies below the Earth's surface. The content includes the layers of the Earth, volcanoes, dinosaurs & fossils, crystals & caves, underground cities, art, animals, & industries, buried people & treasures, dungeons, catacombs, war hideouts, mines, and gems. The format allows the reader to browse or read cover to cover. The text is easy to understand and the engaging illustrations and photographs add to the excitement. Readers will not forget this book.

**Text Features:** Table of Contents, Headings & Subheadings, Diagrams, Labels, Illustrations, Photographs & Captions, Speech Bubbles, and Index.

CCSS for Primary Grades

- *RI.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text (with assistance).*
- *RI.2.3 Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.*
- *RI.2.5 Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.*
- *RL.2.10 By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 2-3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.*

CCSS for Intermediate Grades

- *RI.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.*
- *RI.4.2 Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.*
- *RI.4.7 Interpret information presented visually . . . in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines. . . and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.*
- *RI.4.8 Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.*
- *RI.5.3 Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.*

TOWNER AWARD NOMINEE BOOKS FOR 2016

Lesson Ideas	Text Set Options
<p><b>Primary: The high reading level of this book requires significant teacher guidance in the primary grades.</b></p> <p>Explore any of the topics in the book: animals that live in caves or underground, cave cities, tombs, terra-cotta army in China, Day of the Dead in Mexico, pirates and treasure, trenches and bunkers in war, underground cities, catacombs, mining, volcanoes, rocks or subways.</p> <p>Make lists of things in the book that are living and not living. Discuss how to tell the difference.</p> <p>Lesson plans on underground habitats:  <a href="http://www.coreknowledge.org/mimik/mimik_uploads/lesson_plans/999/Exploring%20the%20Habitats.pdf">http://www.coreknowledge.org/mimik/mimik_uploads/lesson_plans/999/Exploring%20the%20Habitats.pdf</a></p> <p>Start a compost in a tub. Get a large plastic tub, dirt, and worms. Add lettuce, coffee grounds, and other items that decompose quickly. Graph and compare how long various items take to decompose.</p> <p>Investigate land forms. Here are some Volcano lesson plans and resources.</p> <p>Lesson plans for Underground Animals—2<sup>nd</sup> grade by University of Mississippi.</p>	<p><b><i>How to Dig a Hole to the Other Side of the World</i></b> by Faith McNulty Harper Collins (Available as a DVD as well.) 1990 No AR Lexile 520</p> <p><b><i>Under the Ground</i></b> by Jennifer Boothroyd Lerner Publications 2006 No AR No Lexile</p> <p><b><i>Wonderful Worms</i></b> by Linda Glaser Millbrook Press 1992 AR 2.2 Lexile 390</p> <p><b><i>Diary of a Worm</i></b> by Doreen Cronin Live Oak Media 2004 AR No Lexile</p> <p><b><i>The First Drawing</i></b> by Mordecai Gerstein Little, Brown and Company 2013 AR 2.9 No Lexile</p> <p><b><i>What is a Landform?</i></b> By Rebecca Rissman Heinemann Library 2009 No AR Lexile 310</p> <p><a href="http://geology.com/teacher/volcano.shtml">http://geology.com/teacher/volcano.shtml</a>  <a href="http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/unit/volcanoes-everything-you-need">http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/unit/volcanoes-everything-you-need</a>  <a href="http://www.pawneeschools.com/pages/uploaded_files/UNDERGROUND%20ANIMALS.pdf">http://www.pawneeschools.com/pages/uploaded_files/UNDERGROUND%20ANIMALS.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Intermediate:</b></p> <p>Create cards with questions such as “who, what, where, when, why, and how”. Give each team a copy of a different passage of the text. Each member of the team gets one or more question cards. The team works together to create a poster that answers all of the questions for their passage of text and presents that passage as the teacher displays it on the document camera. Each team member writes with a different color of marker so it is clear that every team member participated.</p> <p>Lesson plans on caves (includes other websites) by Scholastic.</p> <p>Start a rock collection. Put rocks in categories of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. Make a Venn diagram comparing the three types of rocks in the collection.</p>	<p><b><i>If You Find a Rock</i></b> by Peggy Christian Voyager Books 2008 AR 3.8 Lexile 930</p> <p><b><i>How the Dinosaur Got to the Museum</i></b> by Jessie Hartland Blue Apple Books 2011 AR 6.8 Lexile 1280</p> <p><b><i>Caves</i></b> by Ellen Labrecque Heinemann Library 2014 AR 4.2 Lexile 800</p> <p><a href="http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/lessonplans/theme/caves01.htm">http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/lessonplans/theme/caves01.htm</a></p> <p><b><i>A Rock is Lively</i></b> by Dianna Hutts Aston Chronicle Books LLC 2012 AR 5.4 Lexile 1110</p> <p><b><i>Island: A Story of the Galapagos</i></b> by Jason Chin Roaring Book Press 2012 AR 5.8 Lexile 900</p>