



For book *Introducing Planet Earth*, Level L

Script Level: Grade 2 (Early)

Word Count: 617

### Script Summary:

Have fun getting to know Planet Earth from those who know it best: a scientist, the continents, the North and South Poles, and the Moon! They will introduce readers to facts pertaining to Earth, including how the planet supports life, why seasons occur, and how day becomes night. Physical attributes are defined, such as continents, the equator, latitude, longitude, and axis tilt.

### Objectives and Assessment

Monitor students to determine if they can:

- consistently read their lines with appropriate rate and accuracy
- consistently read their lines with appropriate expression, including pause, inflection, and intonation
- follow along silently and listen for spoken cues

### Using the Scripts:

- Each role is assigned a reading level according to the syntactic and semantic difficulty encountered. Feel free to divide roles further to include more readers in a group.
- Discuss vocabulary and encourage readers to practice their lines to promote fluent delivery of the script.
- Have readers highlight their lines on the scripts, and encourage them to follow along as everyone reads.

### Vocabulary:

**Story words:** Antarctica, continents, equator, latitude, longitude, seasons, tilted

### Cast of Characters:

Grade 2 (Early)	
Earth	Continents
Scientist	North Pole
Moon	South Pole

**Cast of Characters:**

Parts	
Earth	Continents
Scientist	North Pole
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**Earth:**

Let me introduce myself. I am Planet Earth. I am the luckiest planet in our solar system. I can support life!

**Continents:**

Look at Mercury so close to the Sun. Hot, hot, hot. Even our desert rats could not live in that heat!

**Moon:**

Cold dwarf planet Pluto sits so far from the Sun. Brrrr. How would you like to be a frozen Popsicle Planet? Not me. Oh wait, I'm the Moon. I'm pretty cold, too!

**Earth:**

I have all the things life needs—land, water, air, and energy from the Sun.

**Continents:**

Earth's oceans lap against seven huge pieces of land called **continents**. That's us! Lakes and rivers filled with fresh water that plants and animals need flow across us.

**Sun:**

Earth spins like a top so that all living things have day and night. Humans call this *rotating*. Could you show us, Earth? I think everyone in the audience would like to see that.

**Earth:**

Of course! It would be my pleasure.

**Sun:**

As Earth turns, look at my rays lighting up this half. That's daytime. The side of Earth that doesn't get my rays is dark. That's nighttime.

**Scientist:**

Because Earth is round like a ball, sunlight hits it unevenly. This makes parts of the planet hot and parts of it cold.

**North Pole:**

Earth's fat belly gets the most direct sunlight, so it's hottest along its belt. This is called the **equator**.

**South Pole:**

We're the North and South Poles, and we get the least direct sunlight. The Sun's rays are weaker near us than at the equator. We're the coldest areas on Earth!

**Earth:**

Whether it's hot or cold, or in between, creatures live all over me.

**Moon:**

I see people living on all your continents; a few even live around the South Pole in **Antarctica**. Most people live in the milder, middle parts where they can build homes and grow crops.

**Scientist:**

People travel all over our planet. Long ago, people got lost when sailing across oceans. They needed a way to identify locations.

**Continents:**

Humans invented a global grid, or imaginary lines that cross each other to form points anywhere on Earth. The lines that run east and west are **latitude** lines.

**North and South Poles:**

The lines that run north and south are **longitude** lines. This grid tells people where they are anywhere on the planet!

**Sun:**

I forgot to mention something. I noticed that you are **tilted** as you travel around me during your yearlong trip.

**Earth:**

I stay in my tilt! Sometimes I tilt toward the Sun, and sometimes away from it.

**North Pole:**

Earth's tilt creates **seasons**. In January, my half, the northern half, is tilted away from the Sun.

**Continents:**

That's winter, when children in the northern half go sledding.

**South Pole:**

At the same time, the southern half, my half, is pointed toward the Sun. It's summer here.

**North Pole:**

Imagine Earth gets halfway around the Sun and it's July. Earth is still tilted! This time the northern half is tilted toward the Sun, and it's summer.

**South Pole:**

It's winter down in the southern half because it's pointed away from the Sun.

**Scientist:**

Earth is a fair planet. It gives each half seasons and equal amounts of sunlight. They just get it at different times of the year.

**Earth:**

To all my creatures, I make you a promise. I will rotate every twenty-four hours to give you daytime and nighttime. I will continue to tilt to give you seasons. I will travel around the Sun once each year.

**Moon:**

And Earth and I will do it for billions of years to come!

**All:**

Earth is a planet you can trust!