



Land and Water

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Land and Water

by Janette Schuster

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🔊 “Is your safety belt fastened?” asked Uncle Joe as he checked the controls. “We’re ready to take off!”

🔊 Wyeth tightened his safety belt. Before he knew it, the airplane lifted off the ground.




🔊 The plane climbed high into the sky. “Wow!” said Wyeth. “I can see the ocean!”

🔊 “That’s the Pacific Ocean,” said Uncle Joe. “It’s the largest ocean in the world. Its water covers more of Earth than all of the land put together!”





mountains of the Coast Ranges

-  Uncle Joe turned the plane toward land. Soon Wyeth saw something else.
-  “Look how high the land is there,” he cried. “I’ll bet those high places are mountains.”
-  “You’re right,” said Uncle Joe. “Those mountains are the Coast Ranges. They are made up of many high mountains.”


🔊 Wyeth looked beyond the mountains. The land looked different there.

🔊 “There’s a low place between the mountains,” said Wyeth. “It must be a valley.”

🔊 “You’re right again,” said Uncle Joe. “We are flying over the San Joaquin Valley. Some people call it ‘the nation’s salad bowl.’ That flat land is great for growing fruits and vegetables.”





🔊 The San Joaquin Valley




Lake Isabella

 Soon Uncle Joe pointed to a narrow body of water. It was shining in the sun.

 “That is the Kern River,” he said. “Its waters flow fast. People like to float down the river in kayaks.”

 Before long, Uncle Joe pointed to something else. “What do you think that is?”

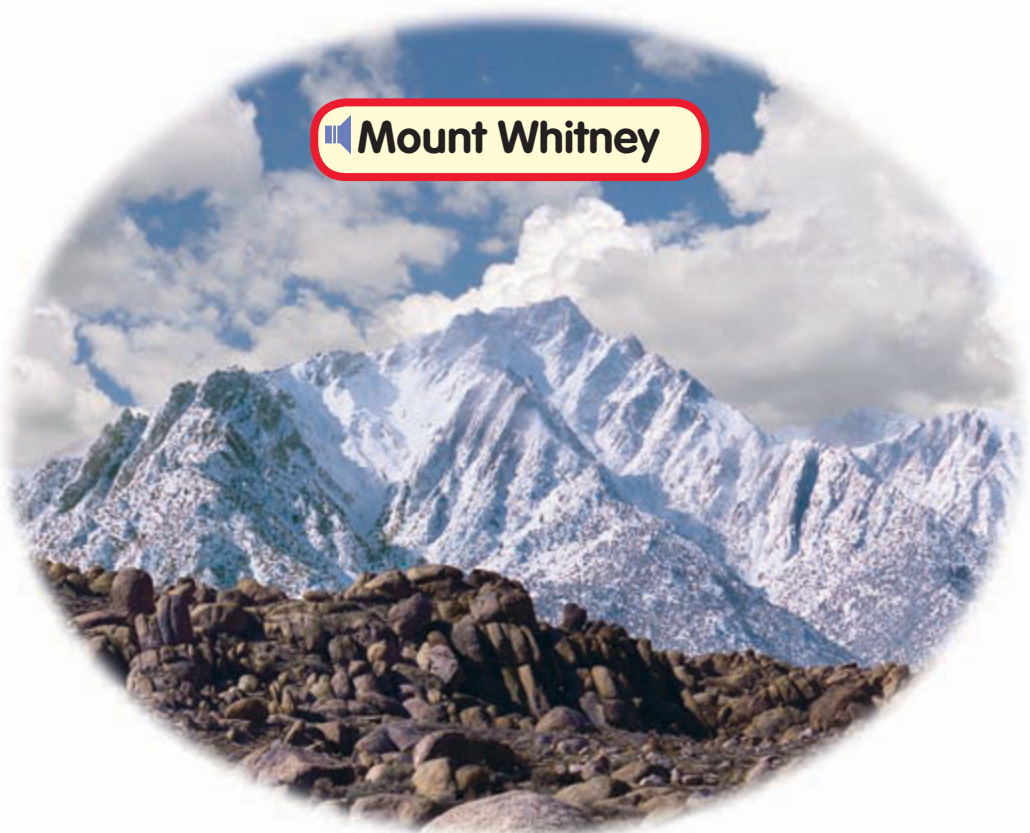
 “It’s a large body of water in the middle of land,” said Wyeth. “It must be a lake.”

 “Yes,” said Uncle Joe. “That is Lake Isabella. You can sail and fish there.”

🔊 Uncle Joe asked, “What kind of land do you see around the lake?”


🔊 “It’s very high land,” said Wyeth. “It must be more mountains.”


🔊 “Yes,” said Uncle Joe. “These mountains are the Sierra Nevada. One of them, Mount Whitney, is the highest place in the United States outside of Alaska.”



A landscape photograph of Death Valley, showing a vast, flat, reddish-brown desert floor in the foreground. In the distance, there are dark, rugged mountains under a clear blue sky. A small, dark rock sits on the sand in the middle ground. The entire image is framed within a white oval border.

Death Valley

 Wyeth and Uncle Joe saw other high and low lands. Then they came to a large low place between the mountains.

 “Here we are,” said Uncle Joe. “We have reached Death Valley. One part of this valley is the lowest place in all of North America. It is even lower than the level of the ocean!”

 “This land is also a desert,” he added. “A desert is a very dry place.”

 “I’ll be sure to drink lots of water while we are here!” Wyeth said with a laugh.





🔊 “We’ve crossed the state of California,” said Uncle Joe. “Our trip is at an end for today.”

🔊 Uncle Joe landed the plane. Then he asked Wyeth, “What will you remember most about our trip?”

🔊 “I’ll remember how many kinds of land and water our state has,” Wyeth told his uncle. “It was a big surprise to me!”



Think and Write

-  **1.** Name three kinds of land.
-  **2.** Name three kinds of bodies of water.
-  **3.** What kinds of land and bodies of water are there where you live?
-  **4. Narrative Writing** Write a story about a time when you visited a certain kind of land or body of water.

Hands-On Activity

On a copy of a map of California, plot the plane's path.

School-Home Connection

What is the closest body of water to your home? See how many fun facts you can find about this body of water. Ask a family member to help you find these facts.

GRADE 1

AL Book 5

WORD COUNT

450

GENRE

Narrative Nonfiction

LEVEL

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