


VOCABULARY AND READING

- 1 Which of these things can you see in the pictures?
Name one or more examples of each.

desert forest hill island lake
mountain river sea valley volcano

- 2 Discuss these questions with your partner. Then read the article and check your ideas.

- 1 How old is the Earth?
- 2 What changes are happening on Earth at the moment?



THE EARTH: A changing planet

Scientists believe the Earth is 4.6 billion years old. However, the mountains, valleys, rivers, deserts and forests we see today are much younger than that. For example, Mount Everest is about 60 million years old and the Amazon Rainforest is only 10 million years old. The youngest sea in the world is the Baltic Sea, about 15,000 years old.

The Earth is always changing because of volcanoes, earthquakes and, of course, wind and rain. Some of these changes are very slow and others are quick. Water and ice can make very big changes to the planet. For example, glaciers (rivers of ice) can cut through mountains and make deep valleys.

It's normal for our planet to change. But at the moment scientists think it's changing faster than usual. They don't understand everything that is happening but they know that temperatures are rising. The weather is getting wetter in some places and drier in others, and there are more big storms.

However, these changes are not bad for everyone. Because the Arctic is getting warmer, some people in Greenland now own businesses that grow and sell vegetables. That wasn't possible 50 years ago. Farmers in Greenland like the warm weather and hope it will continue.

Find words with these meanings in the article

1. How hot or cold something is _____
2. With more rain than before _____
3. With less rain than before _____
4. Bad weather with lots of wind and rain _____
5. Someone who grows food _____
6. In between hot and cold _____