

Land of the Trembling Earth



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BEFORE YOU READ:

SOUND SPELLINGS:

The target sound spelling is /OW/ spelled **OUGH** - drought, slough, bough. While there are many words with OUGH in them, these three are the primary ones in which OUGH sounds like OW. Write them on your whiteboard like this: DR-**OUGH**-T, SL-**OUGH**, B-**OUGH**. Underline the OUGH or write them in a different color. Tell you child(ren) that when they see OUGH in these words, they will just say OW!

SNAPWORDS®: LIST E: indeed, instant, it's LIST V: quit, rest.

SUFFIXES: There is no suffix focus in this book.

PREVIEW: Scan the story, searching for SnapWords® and sound spelling words.

WHILE YOU READ:

- Ask the children to close their eyes and “see” the action as they read each page.
- They may use scratch paper to record names of characters as you read.
- Have them practice retelling the story to a partner.

AFTER YOU READ - COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

- What is a slough?
- What are some things you can find in the slough?
- Does the earth really tremble? Why?
- What happens to the slough in a drought?

1. A swamp. 2. Cypress trees, waterways, floating peat mats. 3. Yes it does. Because the "islands" are made of peat that is floating on the water. 4. The water plants die and land plants begin to take their place.



The “Land of the Trembling Earth” isn’t a pretend place. Indeed, if you live in South Georgia, you may recognize this place in an instant. It’s a 700 square mile slough called the Okefenokee Swamp.



The Okefenokee Swamp does indeed tremble. Let's say you're on a canoe trip through the slough and want to quit rowing and rest. You row to the banks of the river and climb out. As you begin to walk, in an instant, you feel the earth tremble.