The Places We Live
By Lisa Oram

Summary
People and the places they live are connected in many ways. To survive in different environments, people adapt. By looking at communities near water, in deserts, and in the mountains, students will explore how culture and landscape connect and influence one another. Students will also explore how they can protect natural resources.

Before Reading
Building Background
Build background for the book by allowing students to observe the book’s art and predict what some of the topics covered will be. Make sure students are familiar with the key vocabulary and concepts. Encourage students to discuss and share what they may already know about geography.

Vocabulary
community, transportation

Comprehension Skill: Main Idea and Details
To find the topic of a paragraph, ask who or what the paragraph is about. To find the main idea in a paragraph, ask “What one important idea do all the sentences tell about?” To find supporting details in a paragraph, ask “Which sentences give information that supports the main idea?” As you read, think about the topic of the book. Then, think about the main idea that the author is trying to make about the topic. Then, think about some details that tell more about the main idea.

During Reading
Think Critically
1. How many oceans are there on Earth? (four)
2. Why might people want to live near water? (the fishing and shipping industries provide jobs, water is used for drinking, cooking, and washing, fish are a good source of food)
3. How might people adapt to mountain environments? (People might build roads or tunnels to make travel easier.)
4. What are some challenges of living in the desert? (The weather is extreme, with very little rain and lots of sun, cold, and wind.)

After Reading
Writing
Write one paragraph about your community and how your life is affected by the land around you. Write your paragraph on a separate sheet of paper.

Organize Information
Graphic Organizer: Main Idea and Details Chart
Have students use the Main Idea and Details chart to organize the book’s topic, main idea, and details.