

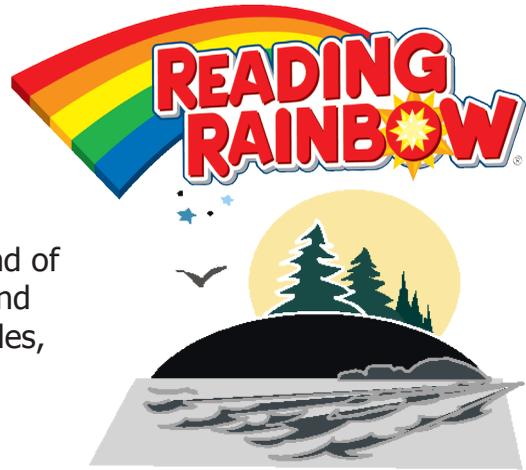
# My Little Island

(GPN# 45)

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Publisher: HarperCollins

**Program Description:** LeVar tours the beautiful island of Montserrat, which is filled with tropical colors, sights and sounds. The open market has unique flowers, vegetables, fruits, and music. Then he heads for the hills for a “mountain chicken” hunt.



## A Little Little Island

**Key Words:** island, land forms

**Concept:** An island is a mountain or other piece of land surrounded by water.

It's easy to think that an island is a clump of land floating on top of the water, but an island is a landmass that juts out of the water. All islands are part of the ocean floor, just as mountains are part of the landscape.

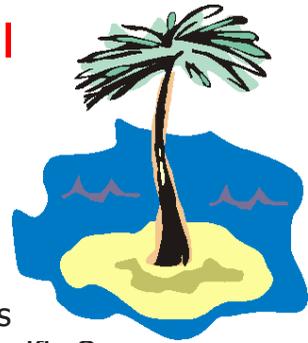
**Materials:** Oil-based modeling clay, tub, water, blue and green food coloring, paper, pencils, crayons.

1. Have students make a wide, cone-shaped tower from clay for this island model. The tower should be 3 or 4 inches tall.
2. Have them place their cone-shaped tower, which is like a mountain, on the bottom of the tub, which is like the ocean floor. Explain that the bottom of the ocean is not always flat, but that it is like land we see in other places on the earth—it has valleys and mountains.
3. Have students pour water into the tub until the water is about 2" deep. Color the water with several drops of blue and green food coloring. Ask them to describe their mountain now. (The mountain is sitting on the ocean floor. The bottom is covered by water, but the top is sticking out above the water—it has become an island.)
4. Ask students to make a side-view drawing of their island showing how it looks above and below the water level. They can make it a tropical island like Montserrat, by adding tropical plants and animals to their drawing.

# Wrapped In A Blanket Of Water

**Key Words:** islands, temperatures, water, air

**Concept:** Ocean water around islands changes temperature very slowly.



Many Caribbean islands, like Montserrat, have mild warm weather most of the year. One reason the weather stays fairly constant is that the Pacific Ocean, a very large body of water, surrounds the islands. Compared to the changeability of air temperature, ocean temperatures are very stable.

**Materials:** Clay model of an island in a tub of water (made in the **A Little Little Island** activity), two small thermometers, cool area such as a refrigerator or outside on a cold day, modeling clay, craft sticks, paper, and pencils.

1. Use the island model from the activity **A Little Little Island**, making sure that the water in the model is at room temperature before beginning.
2. Have students place one end of a craft stick into a large piece of clay, and attach the clay to the side of the tub of water. Using a rubber band or more clay, have them attach a thermometer to this craft stick.
3. Submerge a second thermometer in the water near the island. (The thermometer can be attached to the clay at the bottom of the island to keep it submerged, but don't insert it into the clay.)
4. After letting the model sit for about 10 minutes, have students record the temperatures on both thermometers. Then place the model in a cool location like a refrigerator or outside on a cold day. Ask students to predict what will happen to the temperatures on each of the two thermometers. Have them chart the temperatures every 10 minutes for an hour.
5. Compare the charted temperatures (the class can create a line graph showing the changes in the two temperatures over time), and discuss the differences. (The temperature of the water changed much more slowly than the temperature of the air. The same happens with the temperature of the ocean around small Caribbean islands such as Montserrat. It stays warm and changes very little, even over a year's time.)
6. Ask students what effect such a warm, large body of water might have on the climate of tropical islands. (It keeps the climate warm and more constant than the climate of a place not surrounded by a large body of water, such as a place far from the ocean.)