

Grandmother Earth
Laura Janota

Grandmother Earth is very old. She's older than the pyramids, older than the dinosaurs, older than life as we know it. And she's a tough old woman, patient, stubborn, and sometimes a little gross, but she has endured aches and pains from the many years of circling the sun.

Sometimes Grandmother Earth will feel a small tingly itch over her skin in the great plains, and she'll send down a tornado to scratch it. Her skin gets so dry in the arid deserts that sometimes she sends big sandstorms to scratch her scalp. When her skin gets too dry, she'll send a flashflood over her deserts and plains to soothe her skin like a cool lotion.

Sometimes Grandmother Earth needs to stretch and crack her back a bit, and when she does, her plates shift and earthquakes shake throughout her skin. She sighs, "Ah, that feels better!" When she cracks one of her earthquakes in the ocean, a tidal wave rushes towards the land and wipes away trees and buildings.

Sometimes she gets too hot, and she'll create a blizzard to cover her in thick snow that acts like a giant ice packet. If the snow shifts, avalanches might accidentally occur and then large folds of snow tumble down her mountainsides. Grandmother Earth laughs, "it kind of tickles!"

Sometimes she'll come down with a fever, and when she does, she'll become hot and sweat lava from her pores. When she sneezes "Achoo!" she'll spray ash and lava into the air from tall volcanos. Grandmother Earth doesn't own any tissues.

Grandmother Earth is a tough old woman who is patient, stubborn, and sometimes a little gross, but she endures aches and pains as she continues to circle the sun for years and years to come.