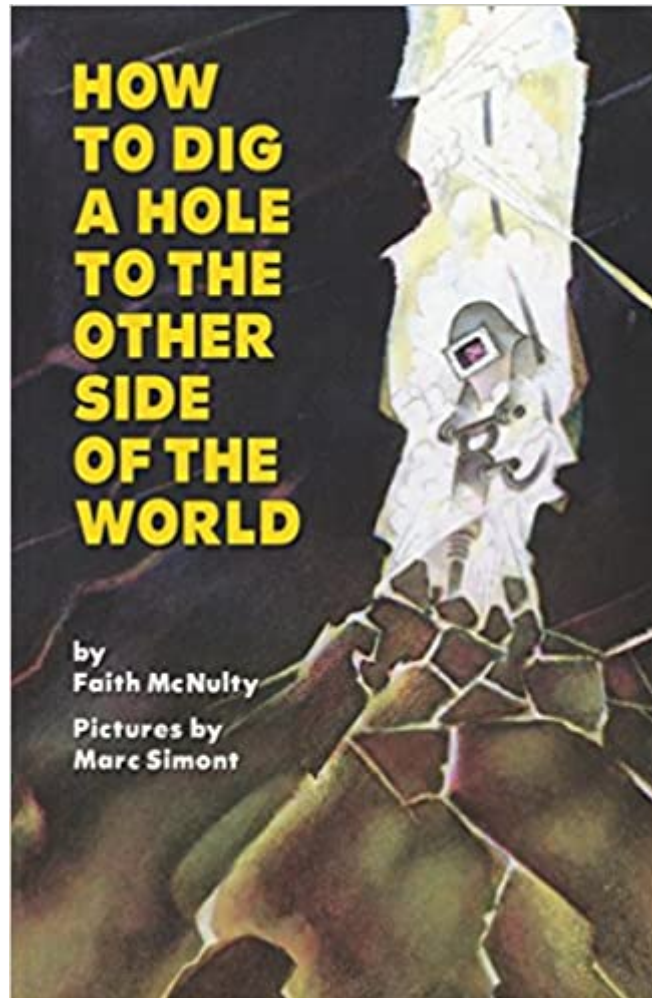




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# How To Dig A Hole To The Other Side Of The World



## Synopsis

An irresistible account of a child's imaginary 8,000-mile journey through the earth to discover what's inside. Facts about the composition of the earth are conveyed painlessly and memorably. An exciting adventure. . . . Illustrations [by Caldecott Medal winner Marc Simont] explode with color and action. •CS. Best Books of 1979 (SLJ) Children's Choices for 1980 (IRA/CBC) A Reading Rainbow Selection

## Book Information

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Lexile Measure: 520L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #74,475 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Earth Sciences #578 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World #1335 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

## Customer Reviews

"An extraordinary book."--"The New York Times" "This will delight any reader who has a sense of whimsy and a bent for adventure."--"Scientific American"

Marc Simont was born in 1915 in Paris. His parents were from the Catalonia region of Spain, and his childhood was spent in France, Spain, and the United States. Encouraged by his father, Joseph Simont, an artist and staff illustrator for the magazine *L'Illustration*, Marc Simont drew from a young age. Though he later attended art school in Paris and New York, he considers his father to have been his greatest teacher. When he was nineteen, Mr. Simont settled in America permanently, determined to support himself as an artist. His first illustrations for a children's book appeared in 1939. Since then, Mr. Simont has illustrated nearly a hundred books, working with authors as

diverse as Margaret Wise Brown and James Thurber. He won a Caldecott Honor in 1950 for illustrating Ruth Krauss's *The Happy Day*, and in 1957 he was awarded the Caldecott Medal for his pictures in *A Tree is Nice*, by Janice May Udry. Internationally acclaimed for its grace, humor, and beauty, Marc Simont's art is in collections as far afield as the Kijo Picture Book Museum in Japan, but the honor he holds most dear is having been chosen as the 1997 Illustrator of the Year in his native Catalonia. Mr. Simont and his wife have one grown son, two dogs and a cat. They live in West Cornwall, Connecticut. Marc Simont's most recent book is *The Stray Dog*.

Since we read this, my boys have been trying to dig a hole to the other side of the earth. The hole takes up a large section of our garden and is getting a bit deep.

As a child my son enjoyed this book for years! We would read it and he would immediately go outside and start digging. We reserved a corner of the yard just for his digging where he and various neighbor friends would dig for oil, water, dinosaur bones (planting chicken bones into the dirt). At one point the hole was nearly 3 feet deep and was made into a prehistoric "mud hole" or filled with rocks as their imaginations led them deeper and deeper into the earth. That all educational books should so ignite an excitement for learning and discovery. I'm waiting anxiously for this book to arrive and can hardly wait to see the creative excitement in my 5 year old grandson and his sister. I wish I could find another favorite book about a pine tree seed that fell into a small crack of a barren rock and how the tree took root, spread the crack, which caught more dirt and water, spread the crack further, etc. That was another well-worn library book that absolutely fascinated the kids and ME!

I purchased this book because it was a required reading for my son's second grade summer reading list. He was able to read the book with little difficulty. I helped him with a few words. All of my children, ages 1 to 7 enjoyed the book. It was in good condition. There were no rips or tears or missing pages. The story is very enjoyable and is different from the *Balto* movie. I recommend this to other parents looking for a book for their child.

I loved this book as a kid. I bought it to read to my 3 year old daughter. She was asking questions about the pictures and it held her attention. She really enjoyed it -- she says she's going to "dig a hole to the fire" in her grandparent's yard.

My seven year old loves this book. We ordered it when he was four and now he still reads it on his own from time to time and every once in a while I would find him in the backyard digging a hole to the other side of the world. He has never gotten deep enough to make us a well yet, though. Maybe one day!

Love this book. I read it to my 2nd graders every year during our study on the layers of the Earth, and it's been a hit every time. The illustrations are awesome and the many details are in kid-friendly language.

I came to this by looking for more McNulty titles after enjoying the more recent 'If you decide to go to the moon' which I also reviewed. This copy is second-hand and I have no way of playing the accompanying audio tape! The story is not dated - I'm sure 'Journey to the centre of the Earth' will not date. This is intended for, I think, 5 -8ish year olds, but my 3-year old loves it, despite having no concept of time, distance, temperature, pressure, the sheer impossibility of digging a hole that deep (and narrow!), or many of the other concepts (quick visits to Google Video or similar help to explain 'geyser', 'lava', 'volcano' etc). A children's book adults will enjoy re-reading.

I love this book because I used to dig holes in my backyard as a kid and then I have loved sharing it with my own children. It is wonderful for the imagination and appreciation of the planet of which we live!

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