

PLANET EARTH AND BEYOND:

Planet Earth is the only known planet in space with liquid water. All living things need water to survive. Plants, animals and humans are just some of the living things we can find on earth. The Earth revolves around the sun even though it looks like the Sun moves across our sky. The Moon is the only thing in our solar system that moves around the earth.

UNIT ONE:

Features of the Earth:

The main features of Earth are **land, water** and **air**.

The Earth is a huge, rocky covered ball (sphere) covered with water, rock and soil and is covered with a thin layer of air.

Land:

Rocks, soil and sand are the main materials that make up the land. The land on earth is made up of **continents** and **islands**. **Continents** are large masses of land. There are seven continents. They are North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia (Eurasia) and Australia and Antarctica. Each continent is further divided into countries, towns and cities, Islands are smaller than continents and are surrounded by water. Land can also be covered by **ice**. We call these parts the **polar ice caps**. The polar ice caps can be found right at the top and bottom of our planet.

The earth has many different **habitats** for living things. Some habitats are hot and dry, while others are extremely cold and icy. Living things also live in the oceans and the seas. Each habitat has its own collection of plants and animals living in it. Each living thing has an important role to play in nature.

Water:

The Earth is sometimes called the **'Blue Planet'** as seventy percent of its surface is covered by water, which is made up of five oceans: the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Indian Ocean and Southern Ocean. Water is also found in the form of seas, rivers, lakes and dams. Seas are smaller than oceans. Seas are found where the land and oceans meet. Seas are partially surrounded by land. The earth's water can be salty or fresh.

Our water is very precious and we should not waste it!



Our beautiful blue planet

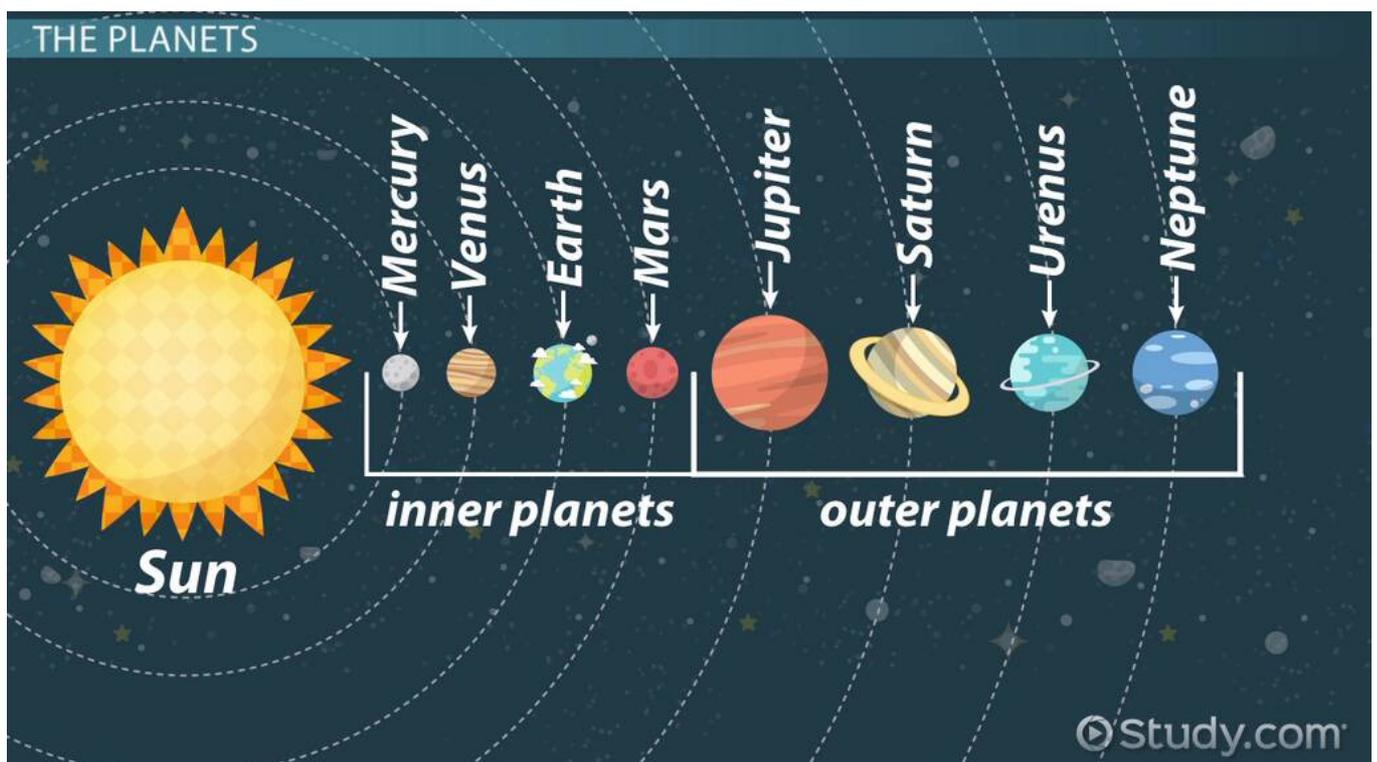
Air:

There is a thin layer of air around the earth called the **atmosphere**. Air is a mixture of gases. You cannot see gas but we know it is there. The atmosphere extends about 600 kilometres above the earth's surface. Earth's atmosphere contains the gases that living things need to breathe. This layer of air also acts like a blanket. This helps to keep the Earth's surface warm enough to survive and also protects us from dangerous rays from the sun. Plants use air and sunlight to make their own food. Animals and humans breathe in air to get oxygen. We would not survive on earth without oxygen

UNIT 2:

Earth and Space:

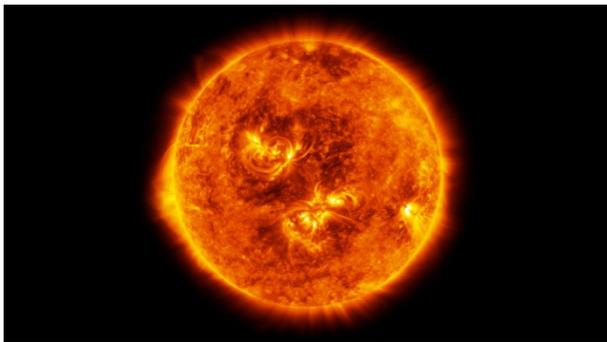
Planet Earth is just one of the **eight planets** in our solar system. In increasing distance from the sun, the planets are **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune**. A planet is a large object that moves around the sun. The Earth is the fifth largest planet and travels through space around the sun. It is the only planet on which there is life: human, animal and plant life. Planet Earth is the third planet away from the sun at just the right distance for us to survive. The sun and its planets are in **space**. Space is a never ending darkness that is filled with stars and other planets. In space there are many other objects such as gas, dust but no air. The planets in our solar system are not the same distance from the sun and each of them moves along at their own path (orbit) and their own speed. At night you can see plenty of stars in the sky and many of them have their own solar systems. Many hours have been spent on research to try and find life outside of Earth but so farrrrr it has not been successful. We only know our own solar system because the others are too far away to explore.



UNIT 3:

Our Closest Star:

The sun is a star in the middle of our solar system. It is only one of billions of stars and is a huge fireball of hot, burning gas that gives out heat and light. The sun is the only star we see during the daylight. The gases burn to produce the sun's energy which are heat and light. Heat and light are forms of energy needed for survival. All living things need energy to survive. This energy is used by plants to make their own food. Animals eat plants or other animals to get this energy. The earth and other planets travel around the sun. The hottest part of the sun is its core (the middle part) Planets nearest the sun are hot and those further away are cooler. The sun is almost one million times larger than planet Earth. We get our daylight and warmth from the sun. Its rays provide energy to heat up the land especially near the centre of the earth, called the Equator, which is very hot. The sun's rays do not shine with so much energy in the Polar Regions. The North Pole and the South Pole are both very cold. The earth is at just the right distance from the sun. If the earth was closer to the Sun, it would be too hot for us to survive. If the earth was further from the sun, it would be too cold for us to survive.



The sun (our closest star)



The earth and the sun.

CAN YOU REMEMBER?

❖ Circle only the correct answer:

1. The earth is the:
 - a) third planet from the sun
 - b) the planet closest to the sun
 - c) the planet furthest from the sun

2. The sun is:
 - a) a rocky ball
 - b) a ball of burning gases
 - c) made up of mainly water

3. The earth is made up of _____% water
 - a) 70%
 - b) 30%
 - c) 100%

4. The sun gives out
 - a) heat and light
 - b) light only
 - c) heat only



Earth Planet

Are the following statements true or false?

5. The sun is a star in the middle of our solar system _____
6. All eight planets orbit (move) around the sun. _____
7. The main surfaces of the Earth are land and water _____
8. The planets in our solar system are all the same distance from the sun. _____
9. The Earth's surface is covered by a special layer of air called the atmosphere. _____
10. There are nine planets that orbit the sun. _____

11. Why is the Earth sometimes called the '**Blue Planet**'?

12. Use the words below to complete the following sentences.

**continents atmosphere planet habitat
Sun**

- 12.1 Earth moves around the _____.
- 12.2 Earth is a _____ because it moves around the sun
- 12.3 Each living thing on Earth has its own _____ where it lives, grows and survives.
- 12.4 The layer of air that belongs to Earth is called the _____.
- 12.5 The _____ are the large pieces of Earth's land surface