

The earth as an apple

Consider the earth as an apple. Get an apple and do the following sequence, or read the activity slowly and imagine or draw each action.

Slice an apple into quarters. Set aside three of the quarters. These represent the oceans of the world. The fourth quarter roughly represents the total land area left.

Slice this land quarter in half, giving you two $\frac{1}{8}$ th world pieces. Set aside one piece. This is land inhospitable to people (polar areas, deserts, swamps, very high or rocky mountainous areas.) The other $\frac{1}{8}$ th piece is the land area where people live, but does not necessarily grow the foods needed for life.

Now slice this $\frac{1}{8}$ th piece into four sections, giving you four $\frac{1}{32}$ nd pieces. Set aside three of these pieces. These are areas too rocky, too wet, too cold, too steep., or with soil too poor to produce food, They also include the areas of land that could produce food but are buried under cities, highways, suburban developments, shopping centers, and other structures that people have built.

This leaves a $\frac{1}{32}$ nd slice of the earth. Carefully peel this slice. This tiny bit of peeling represents the surface, the very thin skin of the earth's crust upon which humankind depends. Less than five feet deep, it is a fixed amount of food-producing land.

When we see the small amount of land that produces our food, it's easy to see that protecting land resources are important. Advanced agricultural technology has enabled the world to feed many of its people. But, with a fixed land resource base and an ever-increasing number of people trying to feed themselves from the fixed base, each person's portion becomes smaller and smaller and more important to the individual person. We must protect the environmental quality of our air, water, and land.

Remember: It takes 100 years to make 1 inch of top soil.
The water we have on earth today is all the water we'll ever have.

Earth's water is composed of
97.2 salt water
2.15 ice
0.63 ground water
0.02 surface water (lakes, rivers)

Only the last two provide our useable water.

Adapted from Idaho Ag in the Classroom Curriculum Guide.