

The Earth

The Earth is the planet where we live. It is like a big ball made of rock, water, and air. It is very special because it has everything living things need to survive – air to breathe, water to drink, and land to walk on.

Shape and Size

The Earth is round like a ball but not perfectly round. It is slightly flat at the top and bottom. Scientists call this shape a *sphere*. The Earth is very big! If you could travel in a car without stopping, it would take many months to go all the way around!

Layers of the Earth

The Earth has three main layers. Let's learn about them:

- **Crust:** This is the outer skin of the Earth where we live. It includes the land and ocean floors.
- **Mantle:** Below the crust is a thick layer called the mantle. It is made of hot, melted rock that moves slowly.
- **Core:** The center of the Earth is called the core. It is very hot and made mostly of metal.

Why is Earth Important?

Earth provides us with everything we need:

- **Air:** We breathe the air around us to live.
- **Water:** Rivers, lakes, and oceans give us water.
- **Soil:** Plants grow in soil which gives us food.
- **Animals and Plants:** Earth is home to millions of living things.

Did you know? Earth is the only planet in our solar system where water exists in liquid form on the surface!

Let's Do an Exercise!

Fill in the blanks:

1. The Earth is shaped like a _____.
2. We live on the _____ layer of the Earth.
3. The _____ is the very hot center of the Earth.
4. Earth gives us air, water, and _____ to live.

Take a look outside and think about all the wonderful things Earth gives us every day!
