

Start

With

Social Studies

(An Environmental Approach)

Includes
Websites for
more information

BOOK
3



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The Earth — Our Home

1

The **Earth**, on which we live, is our **home**. It is one of the eight planets that moves round the Sun. It is the only planet on which life is possible. However, scientists are trying to find the presence of life on other planets. The Earth is home to all living things — plants, animals and human beings.

Can you tell why is life possible on the Earth?



The Earth is the only planet on which life is possible.

Life is possible on the Earth because of the presence of air and water, without these, all living things would die. Almost three-fourths of the Earth's surface is covered with **water** and the rest of it is **land**. Living things are found both on land and in water. Also, there is a layer of air called the **atmosphere**, surrounding the Earth. It is made up of many gases. Oxygen gas is one of the gases present in the air. Living things cannot live without oxygen.





Magellan

The Earth is Round

In ancient times, people did not know much about the Earth. They believed that the Earth was **flat** and had edges. They were afraid of travelling far, for fear of falling off the edges. In 1519, a Portuguese sailor named **Magellan** (pronounced **Ma-jelln**) started on a journey by ship from **Spain** along with other sailors. They went towards the west, sailing in the same direction for a long time. Magellan himself was unable to complete the journey but his sailors kept on moving. After travelling for about three years, their ships reached the same place from where they had started in



Magellan's route

Spain. This meant that they had sailed around the Earth. Thus, this journey showed that the Earth was **round** like a ball and not flat. It appears flat as we see only a very small part of its surface at a time.

Pictures taken from space have also proved that the Earth is round in shape.



Earth's photograph taken from space.



Horizon

If we look from a high building or look around standing on the roof top, it appears as if the land and the sky are meeting at a distance. The place where the **land** and the **sky** seem to meet is called the **horizon**. However, in reality, they never meet. It appears so due to the Earth's big size.



Land and sky seem to meet at the horizon.

Coast

The place where the land and the sea meet is called the **coast**. If we stand on the coast, facing the sea, it appears that the sky and the water surface are meeting at a distance. Actually, they never meet.



Water and land meet at the coast.

Word meanings

- Planet** : a large round object in space that moves round the sun and receives light from it
- Ancient** : very old
- Journey** : going from one place to another



- ➔ The Sun along with the eight planets that move around it form a family called the Solar System.
- ➔ The planets in order of their distance from the Sun are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
- ➔ Our Earth is the third planet in the Solar System.
- ➔ Jupiter is the biggest planet and Mercury is the smallest.





Let's
Recall

- ➔ The Earth is the only planet on which life is possible.
- ➔ The Earth is home to all living things.
- ➔ Almost three-fourths of the Earth's surface is covered with water.
- ➔ The layer of air surrounding the Earth is called the atmosphere.
- ➔ Magellan proved that the Earth is round.
- ➔ The place where the land and the sky seem to meet is called the horizon.
- ➔ The place where the land and the sea meet is called the coast.



EXERCISES

A. Tick (✓) the right answer.

1. What is the layer of air surrounding the Earth called?
(a) biosphere (b) atmosphere (c) hemisphere
2. There are _____ planets in the solar system.
(a) 8 (b) 9 (c) 10
3. On which planet life exists?
(a) Mars (b) Earth (c) Venus
4. Which gas is important for life?
(a) carbon dioxide (b) oxygen (c) nitrogen

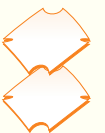
B. Fill in the blanks. Choose the right word from the box.

water Earth gases coast Spain ship

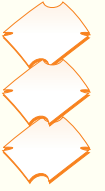
1. The place where the land and the sea meet is called the _____.
2. More than three-fourths of the Earth's surface is covered with _____.
3. Magellan started on a journey by _____ from _____.
4. The _____ is the only planet on which life is possible.
5. The atmosphere is made up of many _____.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false.

1. Magellan along with other sailors went towards the east.
2. The Earth is home to all living things.



3. The Earth is flat and has edges.
4. There is more land than water on the Earth.
5. We cannot live without oxygen.



D. Answer the following questions.

1. Why is life possible on the Earth?

2. Why were people afraid of travelling too far in the ancient times?

3. How was it proved that the Earth is round?

4. What is the horizon?



Websites for More Information

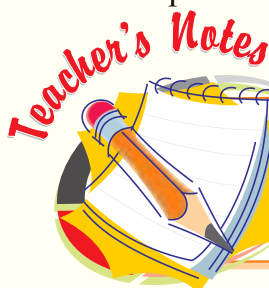
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/earth

Activity

- Find out what 'Dwarf Planets' are and also the names of two Dwarf Planets in our Solar System. Try to collect pictures of all planets and paste them in your scrapbook.
- Learn the names of planets in an easy way.

My Very Efficient Mother Just Served Us Nuts.

M — Mercury, V — Venus, E — Earth, M — Mars, J — Jupiter, S — Saturn, U — Uranus
N — Neptune



Show a picture of the Solar System to the children. Tell about the main features of eight planets.



How Our Earth Looks

2

The Earth is very big and round in shape. We cannot see the whole Earth at one time. To study the Earth, we cannot go to all places on it. So, we make a model of the Earth. This **model** of the Earth is called a **globe**.

Globe

The **globe** is round like a ball. It is fixed at a point and can be rotated on its axis. At one time, we can see only a half of it. To see the other side, we rotate it. We can see different colours on the globe which show different features of land and water.

The globe helps us study the different places on the Earth. However, we cannot show all the details of places on the globe due to its small size. To show all the places, we need to have a very big globe, which would be difficult to carry from one place to another. To solve this problem, maps were made.

Map

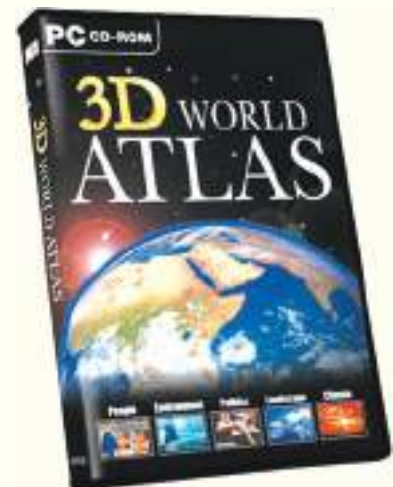
A **map** is a **drawing** of the Earth or a part of it on a flat surface or paper. It may be big or small. It can be folded or rolled and can easily be carried anywhere.

A map showing the whole surface of the Earth is called a **world map**. Some maps are very big and can be hung on the walls. These are called **wall maps**. The wall maps are generally used in classrooms. A book of maps is called an **atlas**.

Let us look at the **world map** shown below. It shows all



A globe is a model of the Earth.



An atlas is a book of maps.



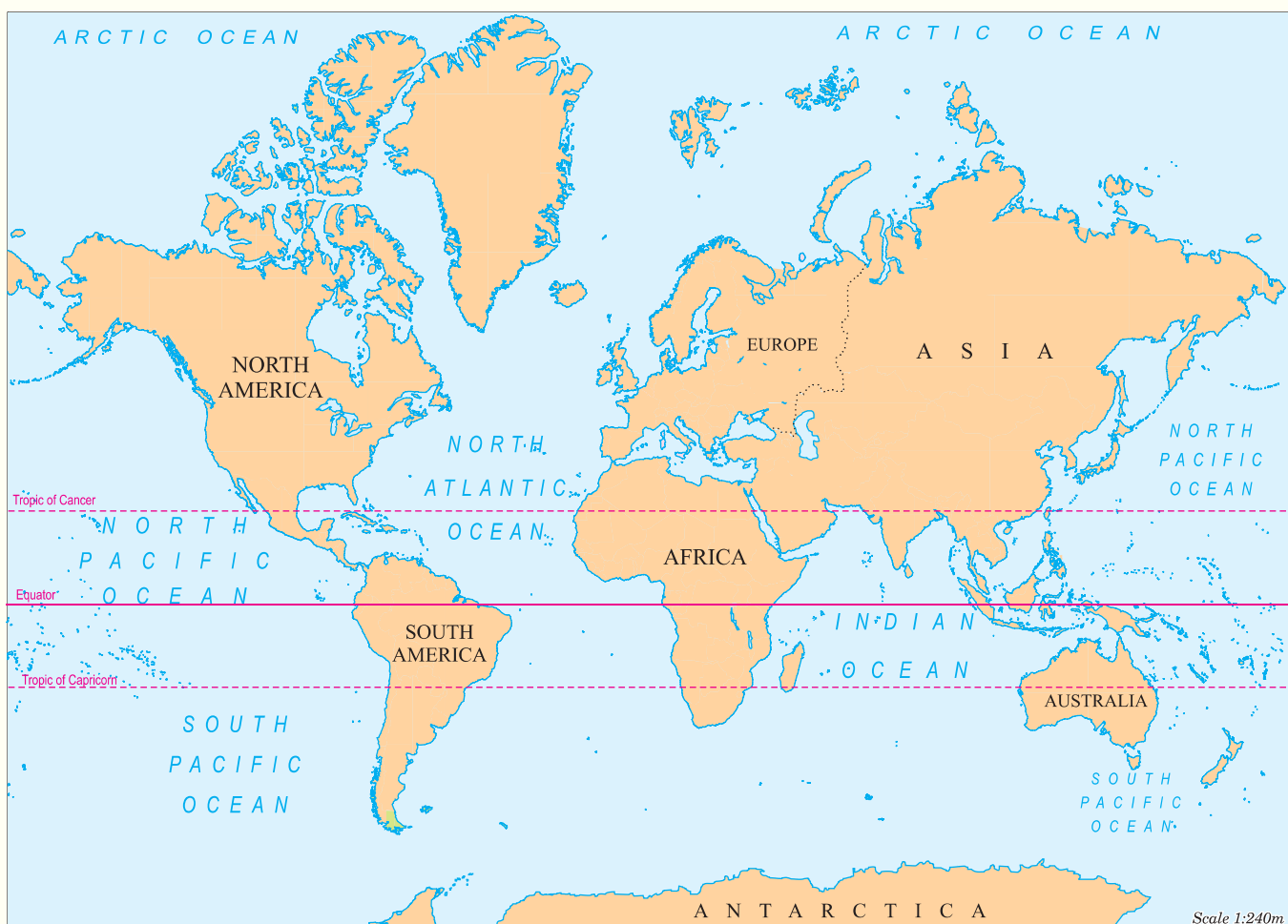
the landmasses and water bodies in different colours. The **blue** colour indicates the water bodies (oceans), whereas the **brown** colour indicates the landmasses (continents).

Oceans

Oceans are huge **water bodies** present on the Earth. There are four oceans in all, namely the Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean and the Arctic Ocean. Among these, the Pacific Ocean is the **largest** as well as **deepest** while the Arctic Ocean is the **smallest**. The Indian Ocean has been named after our country India. There are smaller water bodies too, found on the surface of the Earth like seas, rivers, lakes, bays, gulfs, etc.

Continents

Continents are large areas of **land** on the Earth. There are **seven** continents on the Earth. These are — Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, Australia and Antarctica. Among these, Asia is the **largest** and Australia is the **smallest continent**. Separate maps can also be drawn for each continent.



World Map — Continents and Oceans



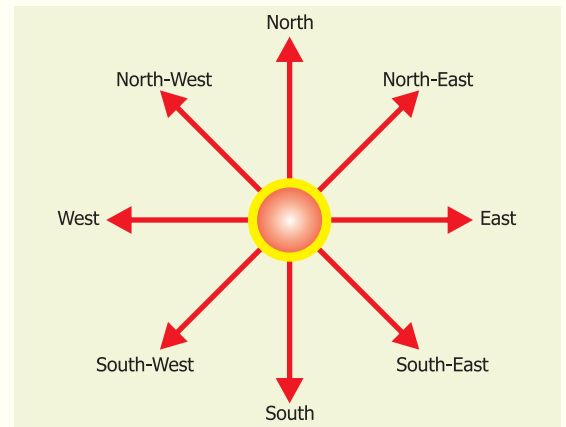
Directions

To locate a place on a map, we need to know the four main **directions** – North, East, West and South. When we stand facing a wall map, the top of the map shows North while the bottom is always South, to our right is East and to our left is West.

There are four subdirections too :

- ✱ North-East (NE) lies between north and east.
- ✱ North-West (NW) lies between north and west.
- ✱ South-East (SE) lies between south and east.
- ✱ South-West (SW) lies between south and west.

To find their way while sailing, sailors use a **compass**. A compass looks like a watch and has a needle, that always points towards the **north direction**. It helps the sailors to find the right direction and reach their destination.



Sub-direction

Word meanings

- Axis** : an imaginary line passing through the centre of the Earth, around which it rotates
- Atlas** : a book of maps



- ➔ Our country, India, lies in the southern part of the Asian continent.
- ➔ Antarctica is the coldest among all continents. It always remains covered with ice.





Let's
Recall

- ➔ A globe is a model of the Earth.
- ➔ A map is a drawing of the Earth or a part of it on a flat surface or paper.
- ➔ A book of maps is called an atlas.
- ➔ Continents are large areas of land on the Earth.
- ➔ Oceans are huge water bodies present on the Earth.
- ➔ A compass helps us find directions.



EXERCISES

A. Tick (✓) the right answer.

1. A globe is a model of the
 (a) Moon (b) Sun (c) Earth
2. The world's smallest continent is
 (a) Europe (b) Asia (c) Australia
3. The world's largest ocean is
 (a) Pacific (b) Atlantic (c) Indian

B. Fill in the blanks. Choose the right word from the box.

compass round southern four north

1. The top of a map shows the _____ direction.
2. There are _____ oceans in all.
3. Sailors use a _____ to find their way while sailing.
4. A globe is _____ like a ball.
5. India lies in the _____ part of Asia.

C. Give one word for the following terms.

1. A book of maps _____
2. The large areas of land on the Earth _____
3. A drawing of the Earth on a flat surface _____
4. The huge water bodies present on the Earth _____

D. Answer the following questions.

1. What is a globe?

2. What are wall maps?

3. Give two differences between a map and a globe.

4. How many continents are there on the Earth? Name them.

5. How can we find the directions on a map?

6. What is a compass?



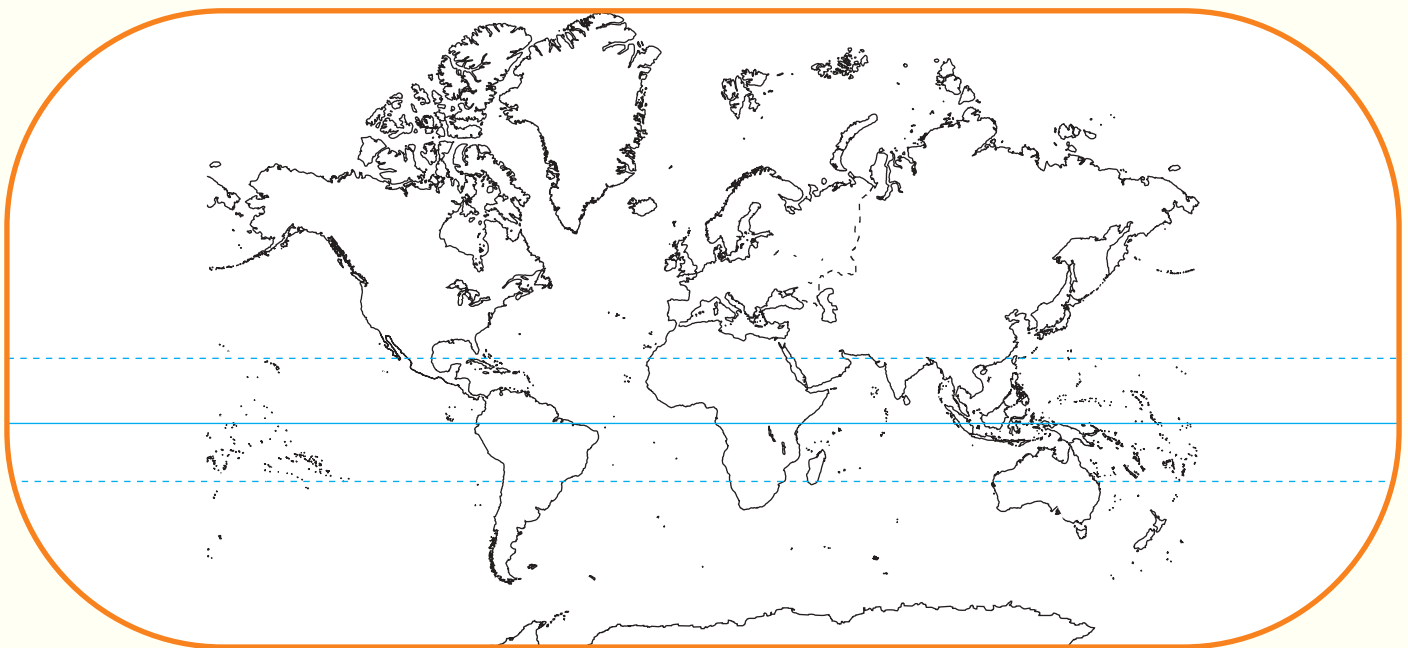
Websites for more Information

- (i) en.wikipedia.org/wiki/globe
- (ii) en.wikipedia.org/wiki/map
- (iii) en.wikipedia.org/wiki/compass

Activity



On the world map given below, colour the oceans blue and the continents brown. Also write their names.



Teacher's Notes



For a better understanding, show the children a globe as well as a wall map before starting the lesson. Also teach the students how to study maps in an atlas.

