

# The Earth- Oceans, and Continents

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## How the Earth was Formed?

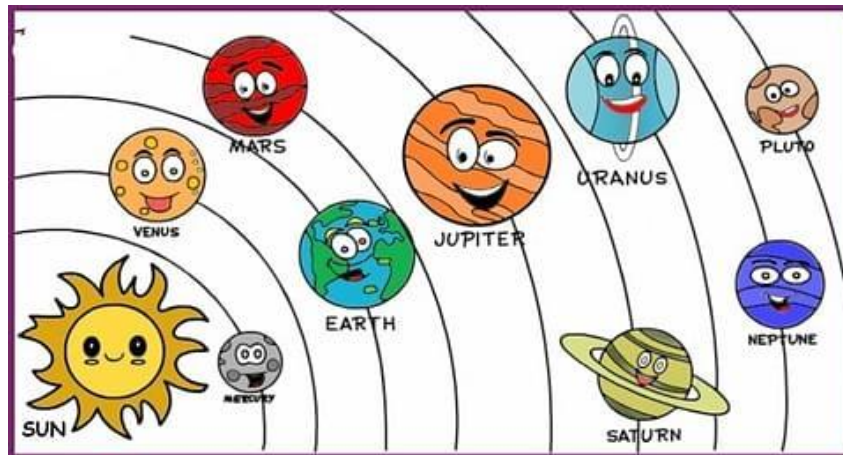
Many, many years ago, there was only the Sun surrounded with very special type of dust and gas. This was no ordinary dust as we come across in our streets and plains. It had come out of the Universe.



Our Planet Earth

This dust gradually moved away from the Sun and formed the family of the Sun. One of the family members is the earth.

This family along with the Sun is called the Solar system.



Solar System

Family members are called the planets. Planets keep on moving around the Sun.

Some astronomers say that there are nine planets and some say that there are eight planets. Earth is one of the planets.

## Our Wonderful Earth!

The most wonderful thing about our beautiful earth is that its distance from the Sun is just perfect that it is not a hot ball or extra cold.

The distance from the Sun allows life to exist over here. It also allows the atmosphere to build and helps life to grow.

The earth too has a family member. It is the moon. Moon is the planet of the earth.

When the earth was formed, a part of the earth separated from it and formed the moon. The moon moves around the earth as the earth moves around the Sun.

That way the earth and the moon both move around the Sun.



Moon as a Satellite of the Earth.

- It is very hot deep inside the earth. We live and work on the outermost surface of it.
- We could find about the formation of the inner part of the earth whenever it burst open and the hot material is thrown out of it.



Earth is very hot from inside

- It is a terrifying experience which no one likes to happen.

## What is the Shape of Earth?

The Earth is almost completely round.

- Whether the earth was flat like a disc or a plate or like a ball had been a point of discussion for a pretty long time. It was not that earlier people were not wise as we are but they had to depend mostly on observation or guesswork.



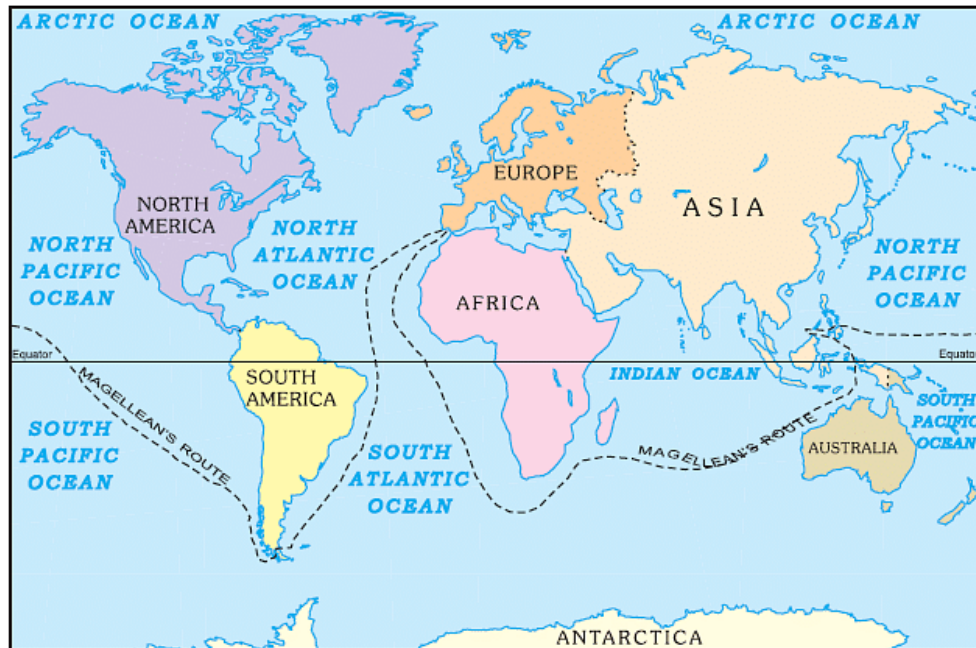
Earlier people believed that earth is flat which was proved wrong later.

- For them, stars were twinkling dots, and with naked eye, moon was more like a disc than a ball. They had intelligence but no means to find the truth.
- Some people did believe that heavenly bodies were sphere-like. Based on that belief, in the 16th century, Ferdinand Magellan of Portugal undertook a daring journey by sea and after three years reached the same place where he started the journey three years before.



Ferdinand Magellan

- It was more daring than the journey of the first astronaut from the earth to the moon. Now we are definite about the shape of the earth. Such incidences tell us about the courage of man in search of truth and knowledge.



The route taken by Magellan's ship

## The Oceans on Earth

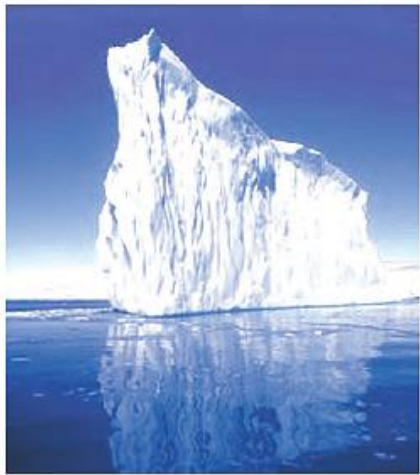
Oceans are large bodies of saltwater. These are really very large. There are only five such water bodies, namely, Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean and Antarctic Ocean.

- The smaller bodies of saltwater are called the sea. All the oceans and seas are interconnected. So the level of water in the sea and the oceans remains the same.



## Oceans and Continents of the World

- This level is taken as the standard for measuring every other level whether of water or the land. At whatever level the aeroplane flies is measured from the sea level.
- The height of Mount Everest is also measured from sea level. Taken together, the water in oceans and seas is more than two-thirds of the earth's surface.
- Oceans look like plain water surfaces but under such water surfaces, there are deep valleys and high mountains.
- Oceans are full of lives. Besides fishes, there are many marine lives yet to be discovered.
- Arctic and Antarctic oceans have large chunks of ice as large as hills floating in them. They are called Iceberg.



Iceberg

## The Continents on Earth

Continents are large unbroken landmasses. The whole world is divided into seven Continents. These are:

- North America
- South America
- Europe
- Africa
- Asia
- Australia
- Antarctica

Europe and Asia form one big mass. These two together are named Eurasia. Our country India is a part of Asia.

**Things to Remember**

- Family of the Sun
- Family of the earth
- How the distance of the earth from the Sun has helped life to grow on the earth
- How Ferdinand Magellan proved that the earth was round in shape
- Five saltish water bodies which are called oceans
- Icebergs
- Seven Continents
- Eurasia