

INDOORS ✪ GRADES 4-6 ✪ FALL, WINTER, SPRING ✪ ACTIVITY



# Eat the Earth

## DESCRIPTION

An apple, used to represent Earth, is sliced into portions representing the oceans, land, farmland, and potable water.

## OBJECTIVE

To illustrate the percentage of Earth that can support human needs.

## MATERIALS

- ✪ a few apples
- ✪ knife

## CLASS DISCUSSION

Earth has many natural resources that are very important to us. Can you name some of them? (*soil, water, air, minerals*) How are these resources important to us? (*We could not live without them.*) Can they be replaced? (*no*) Let's imagine that this apple is Planet Earth. We know that Earth is made up of water and land. How much of Earth do you think is water? (*Record guesses.*) How much is land? (*Record guesses and cut one or two apples according to students' guesses.*) Let's make an accurate representation. Our goal is to find out how much soil there is for us to grow our food in and how much water there is to drink.

## ACTION

1. Cut an apple into quarters and set three of them aside. The remaining quarter represents the part of Earth's surface not under saltwater.
2. Next, cut this quarter in half and set one piece aside. Explain that the remaining piece represents the part of Earth that is suitable for human habitation. The other part is too cold, too dry, too mountainous, or too hot.
3. Now cut the part on which humans can live into four equal slices. Rather thin, aren't they? Just one of these four small slices represents the part of Earth that supplies almost all of our food and clothing, the small part that is farmable. It is the only part not too wet, not too cold, and not occupied by cities, factories, or highways.
4. Cut a very small piece from the remaining slice. This represents the  $\frac{1}{100}$  of 1% of Earth's vast surface that contains potable water.

## WRAP UP

What does cutting the apples into portions tell you? Do we need our natural resources? Does it seem as if we have enough land to farm and enough water to drink? Who is responsible for taking care of these resources? How do we want to treat the farmland and water we have?