

NAME _____

ABOUT EARTH ⊕



Earth is the third planet from the Sun, and the densest and fifth-largest of the eight planets in the Solar System. It is also the largest of the Solar System's four terrestrial planets. It is sometimes referred to as the world, the Blue Planet, or by its Latin name, *Terra*. At present, Earth's period of rotation is 23 hours 56 minutes and its period of revolution is 365.26 days.

Earth has one moon in orbit that is commonly known as 'The Moon', but its Latin name is 'Luna' and its Greek name is 'Selene'. The Moon has a synchronous orbit which means the amount of time it takes to rotate itself is the same amount of time that it takes to rotate around the Earth. Because of this, we only see one side of the Moon.

The Earth's surface is build of seven major tectonic plates which move across the planet because of the constant flowing of magma beneath the surface. The atmosphere of the planet is primarily made up of nitrogen and then oxygen. The Earth's surface is covered mostly by water.

Earth formed approximately 4.54 billion years ago by accretion from the solar nebula, and life appeared on its surface within one billion years. The planet is home to millions of species, including humans. Since the existence of humans, the population was stable under 1 billion. At the beginning of the 19th Century (1800), human population began to increase at an exponential rate. After just 200 years, the population has increased to 7 billion because of advancement in medicine.

Questions about Earth

1. List some traits about Earth that make it different than the other planets of the Solar System?

2. What are two other names that also have been used in naming the Earth?

3. Why do we only see one side of the Moon?

4. What is the world's human population? How many years did it take the human population to grow from 1 billion to 7 billion? What are some problems that could happen because of this?

5. What is the period of rotation of the Earth? What is Earth's period of revolution around the Sun? What do we do to the calendar every four years to make up for the extra quarter day we have every year?
