

Earth

Earth is the third planet from the Sun and the fifth largest planet in our solar system. Earth is the only planet in our solar system that has liquid water. The atmosphere of Earth is made up of nitrogen, oxygen, a little carbon dioxide, and some other gasses. This mix of liquid water and atmosphere make Earth the perfect place for us to live!

The Earth orbits around the Sun once every 365 days (365.24 days to be exact). The Earth also rotates, or spins, on its axis once every 24 hours (23.934 hours to be exact). This rotation is what causes day and night. Because the Earth's axis is tilted a little bit, we also get a change of seasons. If the axis of the Earth were straight up and down, the temperature where you live would stay almost the same all year long.



Image courtesy of <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov>

Like Mars and Venus, Earth has volcanoes, mountains, and valleys. Earth has only one naturally occurring satellite, the Moon. From Earth, you can only see one side of the moon.

After reading the information above, fold your paper on the line and try to answer the questions below without referring back to the data. (Check the box with the correct answer.)

- Which planet in our solar system is the only one known to have liquid water?
 Venus Earth Mars
- It takes the Earth about _____ days to orbit the sun.
 635 356 365
- Which of the following causes us to have day and night?
 the Earth's orbit the Earth's rotation the tilt of the Earth's axis
- Which of the following causes Earth to have seasons?
 spinning of the moon orbit of the Earth tilt of Earth's axis
- Earth is the _____ planet from the Sun.
 fifth fourth third

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