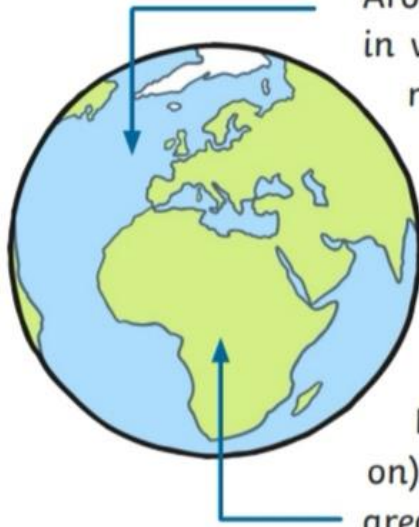


Shooting for the Stars

Our Planet

We live on planet Earth, which is one of eight planets in our solar system. All of the planets in our solar system rotate (spin around) and it takes Earth one whole day to spin around once on its axis.



Around 70% of the Earth's surface is covered in water, which includes the seas, oceans, rivers and lakes. The water on our planet is a mixture of salt and fresh water.

The other 30% of the Earth's surface is covered in land. This includes all of the mountains, valleys and deserts that can be found around the world. Many of these areas are inhabited (lived on) by people but there are still some remote areas that are untouched by humans.

Our Solar System

The Sun is at the centre of our solar system. Our solar system is believed to have formed around 4.6 billion years ago! The eight planets orbit (travel around) the Sun, some closer to the Sun than others.



Earth is the third closest planet to the Sun.

The planet nearest to the Sun is Mercury, which is very hot.



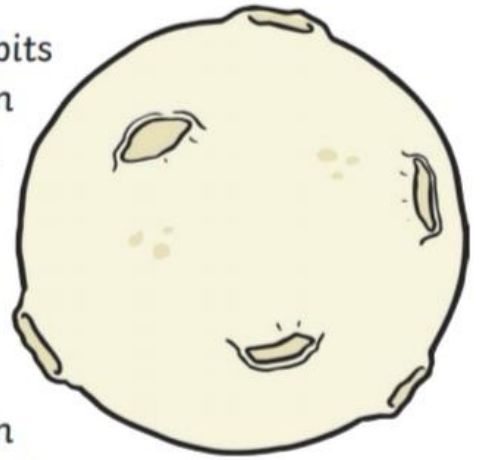
The planet furthest from the Sun is Neptune, the coldest planet in the solar system.

The Moon

The Moon is a natural satellite that orbits the Earth. It has a massive impact on our planet as it controls the tides in our oceans.

Astronauts have been fascinated by the Moon for many years. Several missions have taken place to travel to the Moon, the first of these being in 1969, when Apollo 11 landed on the surface

of the Moon. Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first people to ever set foot on the Moon. They walked on the surface, conducted some experiments and planted a flag. Footprints and tyre tracks left behind by astronauts on the Moon will stay there forever as there is no wind to blow them away.



Did You Know?

Scientists are still investigating whether there is water on the surface of the Moon. Water is essential in order for plants and animals to live and grow. If enough water was found on the Moon, plants could possibly grow and people may be able to visit or even live there! However, this would be a very long way in the future.

Questions

1. What does the word 'rotate' mean? Circle one.

turn upside down

flip over

spin around

2. What is 70% of the Earth's surface covered with? Circle one.

soil

water

sand

3. When did our solar system form? Circle one.

4.6 billion years ago

4.6 million years ago

4.6 years ago

4. What does the Moon control?

5. Name two things that Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin did on the Moon.

6. If you were an astronaut heading to the Moon, what would you like to do when you got there? Why?

Answers

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Varied answers.