

SLICE OF PLANET EARTH

Objective: Students will discover our available soil resources through this apple graphic.

Illinois State Goals: 6.B., 8.A., 10.C.

Top Book Hits:

Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin; **ISBN-13:** 978-0060001506
A Handful of Dirt by Raymond Bial; **ISBN-13:** 978-0802786982

Materials Needed:

- Large apple
- Cutting board
- Knife to cut the apple



Procedure:

Tell your students to imagine the apple is planet Earth.

1. Cut the apple in quarters.
 - Oceans occupy three quarters of our Earth. Put these 3 quarters aside.
 - One quarter of our Earth is our land area.
2. Take this quarter and cut it in half, now you have two 1/8th sections of land.
 - One-eighth of our land is not suitable for producing food.
 - This represents the deserts, swamps, mountains, and the Arctic and Antarctic regions.
 - The other 1/8th represents land where man can live.
3. Slice this 1/8th section lengthwise into four equal parts, now you have four 1/32nd pieces.
 - The first section represents the areas of the world with rocky soil that are too poor for any type of food production.
 - The next section represents land too wet for food production.
 - The third section represents areas that are too hot for food production. The last section represents the area of the world developed by man.
4. Carefully peel the last 1/32nd section.
 - This small bit of peeling represents all the soil of our Earth which humans depend upon for food production.
 - Save our soil; one of Earth's most valuable resources.

Dig Deeper: Video demonstration of this activity <http://aginclassroom.org/movie/soil.html>
Soil mAGic Kit - Math Lesson 4 - A Slice of Planet Earth available through local Ag Literacy Coordinator.

Give credit where credit is due...this activity originally came from the USDA.