

Good Morning students,

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Today we are going to set our focus on the topic - "The Earth", chapter-16 which is given on page number- 96 of your textbook titled - "Excursions-3". If all the students are ready then let us start our today's topic.

THE EARTH :- Long ago,

people used to think that the earth is flat. They thought that if a person starts walking straight in any direction, that person would reach the end of this flat surface



and then fall off its edge. But later it has been proved that the shape of Earth is spherical.



Magellan

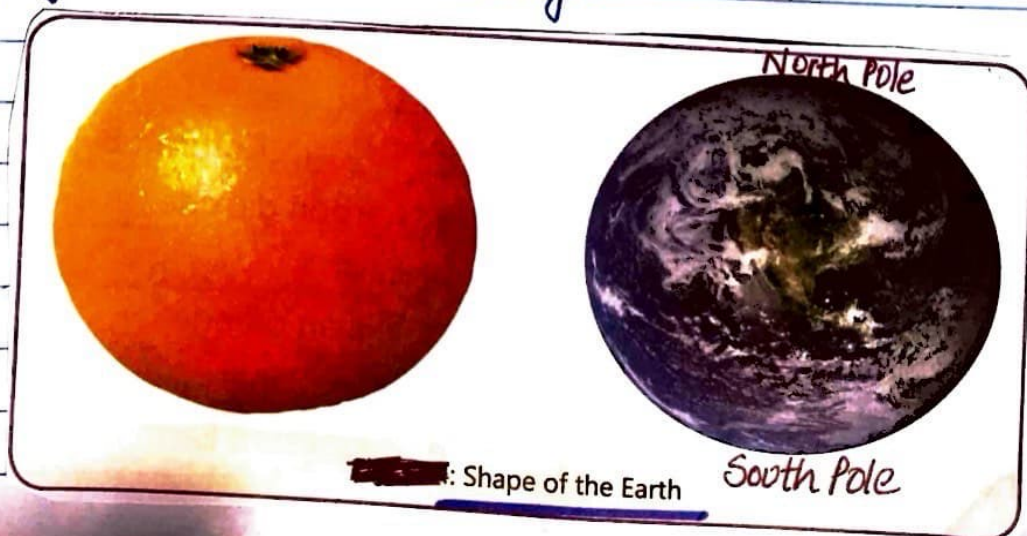
A portuguese sailor named Ferdinand Magellan travelled around the globe along with his crew members. They were the first to

suggest that the earth is not flat but round in shape.



Magellan's journey around the Earth

If we look closely, we will find that earth is not exactly like a ball. Our planet is little flat at the top and bottom. There are the North Pole and the South Pole. So, earth is little flat at the poles. The round shape of the earth is called a sphere. However, earth is not a perfect sphere. The earth has a little bulge around its middle and is slightly flat at the poles, just like an orange.



WHY IS OUR EARTH SPECIAL ?

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Earth is the only planet in the solar system that has life on it. There are some unique features of earth that has made it possible.

1) AIR TO BREATHE :- Earth has a blanket of air surrounding it. This is called atmosphere. All living beings need oxygen to breathe, and earth's air has plenty of oxygen. Some other planets also have blankets of air, but they do not have oxygen. Therefore, earth is the only planet where living beings can survive.

2) Neither hot nor cold :- Earth is neither too hot, nor too cold. It has an ideal temperature for life to survive. The fact becomes clear if we compare earth to its two nearest neighbouring planets. Venus is so hot that no form of life can exist there. Mars on the other hand is freezing. The distance of the earth from the sun is just right for it to receive the correct amount of heat that allows life to exist on the earth.

3) WATER IS LIFE :- We cannot live without water and most part of earth's surface is covered with water. This is another unique feature of earth. Some other planets in the solar system also has traces of water, but that is found either in the form of ice, or in gaseous state. Only earth has a water reserve that can support life.

That's all for today students.
Please go through the assignments carefully for better understanding of the concept.

Thank you.

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