

Class IV

Subject:- Social Studies

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 5 Domains of the Earth

If we look around us, we see different things, some living organisms and some are non-living objects. There is also air, which we cannot see, but can feel. All these elements make up the four domains of the Earth.

Lithosphere :- It is the earth's solid outer layer, which includes the continents, ocean floors, rocks, soil and natural resources like oil, gas and minerals. Our planet Earth is comprised of the core, mantle and outer crust. The core is divided into inner core and outer core. The inner core is solid and the outer core is semi-liquid. It is also very hot at the centre of the Earth.

Hydrosphere :- The word 'hydro' means water, and the hydrosphere includes all the sources of water on the Earth's surface - the oceans, streams, lakes and groundwater - as well as the frozen water in glaciers, on mountains, and in the Arctic and Antarctic ice sheets.

The continuous movement of water from land to air and back again to the land is called the water cycle. It has three stages - evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

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Atmosphere :- The air we breathe in is a part of the Earth's atmosphere. The atmosphere surrounds the Earth like a blanket. It contains oxygen and other gases and helps in maintaining a balanced temperature on Earth. The Earth's atmosphere is composed of several layers, each with a distinct function and extends up to several hundred kilometres from the surface. Starting from the bottom these layers include the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere and exosphere.

Biosphere is that area of the Earth where living beings are found. It is that area of the Earth where parts of the atmosphere, lithosphere and hydrosphere overlap with each other. The biosphere supports the various ecosystems of Earth. All the living beings of a given area and their environment constitute the ecosystem of that area. This ecosystem functions as a unit where all living beings interact with each other and with their environment in different ways.