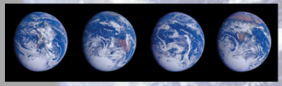
EARTH

"OUR HOME PLANET"

Earth, our home planet, is the third planet from the Sun. It is the fifth largest planet in our solar system. It is the only planet we know of where life exists. Earth has hundreds of names in many languages. It has one moon.

In some ways, Earth is similar to Mercury, Venus and Mars. They are all hard, rocky planets. All four have meteor impact craters, mountains and valleys. But Earth is different in very important ways. Most of our planet is covered with water. The air is made of nitrogen, oxygen and a little carbon dioxide—just right for us to breathe. Earth is home to people, plants and animals because it has both water and the right kind of atmosphere.



Four views of Earth, taken by the Galileo spacecraft.

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