

# If the earth were an apple

This is an edible geography activity which illustrates quickly and simply how finite the Earth is by comparing it to an apple.

## You will need

- An apple and a knife (facilitator).
- One apple per group and plastic knives.

## What to do

1. Take an apple. The whole apple represents planet Earth. If we breathe out close to the apple, the thin layer of condensation represents the thickness of the atmosphere around our Earth.
2. Around 70 - 75 percent of the Earth is covered by oceans. (Cut apple into quarters and remove three of the pieces, leaving only one-quarter of the apple in your hand). Note that maybe our planet should have been called 'Ocean' instead of Earth!
3. Of the remaining quarter 30 percent is desert, too dry to live on. (Cut off a little less than a third, leaving a little more than two-thirds of the quarter, or about one-sixth of the apple).
4. Another 30 percent is mountains, too high to live on. (Cut off another piece, leaving 40 percent of the quarter, or a little more than one twelfth of the apple).
5. Of this remaining piece, only the crust (skin) is used as living space for humans and other land animals (trim the skin from the small piece of apple).
6. Discuss how long it will be before our lifestyles and growing populations take up all the available living space. Eat the remaining skin to symbolise consuming the living space.



## Reflect/ Pūmahara

How much of the apple is actually habitable for people and other land-dwelling creatures?

How does it feel to watch the apple skin being consumed?

What does this mean for us in terms of our lifestyles?

Do you think that limited resources are shared fairly in our world?

What are some examples of sustainable, wise and fair use of resources in our school?

What are some examples of wastage, unwise, or unfair use of resources?

How could we use our limited resources more carefully, and share them more fairly?

