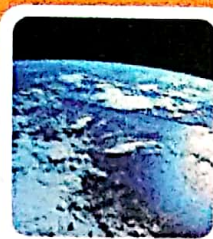


UNIT-1 AROUND THE WORLD



1

OUR EARTH

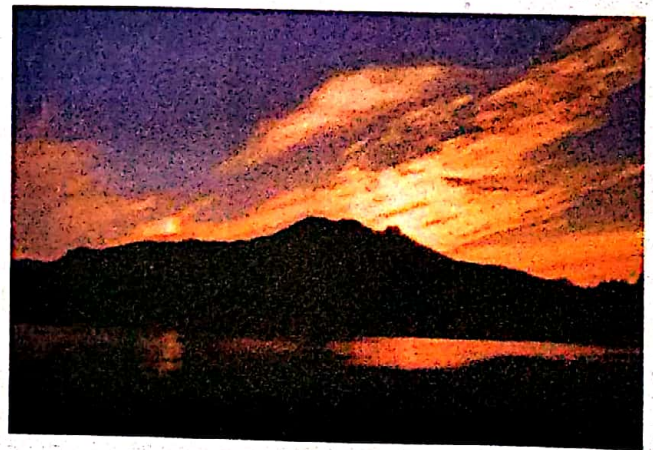
The Earth is a **planet**. It revolves around the Sun. It is neither too hot nor too cold.

SURFACE OF THE EARTH

The surface of the Earth is made up of **land** and **water**. About three-fourth of its surface is covered with water and one-fourth of it is covered with land.

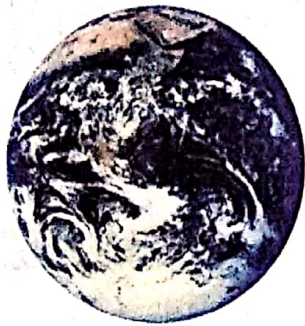
We live on the Earth. Like us plants, animals, birds and insects also live on it. Every living thing needs air to breathe. The Earth is surrounded by a layer of air called **atmosphere**.

Here is an activity for you. Stand on a high place and look far away. What do you find? You will find that the sky seems to meet the Earth. The line where the Earth and sky seem to meet is called the **horizon**. In reality, they never meet. The place where land and the sea meet is called the **coast**.



The coast

SHAPE OF THE EARTH



Our Earth

If you watch a ship coming from far away, you will see that the top of the ship appears first, then its middle part and finally, the complete ship. It is because of the reason that the Earth is round.

FOCUS

Satellite photographs taken from space show the Earth as a blue ball.

In 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain with many sailors. They sailed westwards. They continued their sailing in the same direction till they reached the Far East. Soon after they reached the Far East, Magellan was killed. Only one out of the original five ships completed the voyage and returned to Spain in 1522. This can happen only if the path is circular. The voyage provided the first proof that the Earth is round.



Magellan

In 1969, two American astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin landed on the Moon in spacecraft. They took some photographs of the Earth. All those photographs show that the Earth is round.



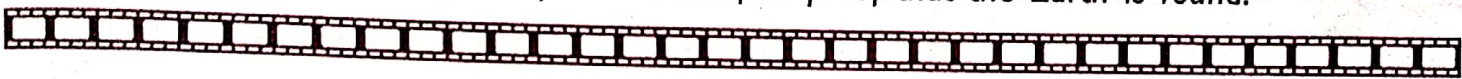
Neil Armstrong

India had launched its first mission to the moon on October 22, 2008. It was given the name of Chandrayaan 1. It was India's technology to explore the moon. The mission was planned for two years but it lasted only 312 days. It was officially declared over on 29 August, 2009.

FLASH BACK



1. The Earth is a planet.
2. About three-fourth of the surface of the Earth is covered with water.
3. About one-fourth of the surface of the Earth is covered with land.
4. The Earth is surrounded by a layer of air called atmosphere.
5. The Earth and sky seem to meet at the horizon.
6. Land and the sea meet at the coast.
7. The voyage led by Magellan provided the first proof that the Earth is round.



Recall these new terms

1. Atmosphere - a layer of air that surrounds the Earth.
2. Horizon - the line in the distance where the Earth and sky seem to meet.
3. Coast - the place where land and sea meet.
4. Astronaut - a person who travels in space.



EXERCISES

A. Answer the following questions.

1. What is horizon?
2. Why do we see the top of a coming ship first?
3. How did Magellan prove that the Earth is round?
4. Name the two American astronauts who landed on the moon in 1969.

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. The Earth is neither too _____ nor too _____.
2. The layer of air surrounding the Earth is _____.