

# The Earth as an Apple

Consider the earth as an apple. Imagine the following sequence.

Slice an apple into quarters. Set aside three of the quarters. These represent the oceans of the world. The fourth quarter roughly represents the total land area left.

Slice this land quarter in half, giving you two  $\frac{1}{8}$ th world pieces. Set aside one of the pieces. This is land inhospitable to people (the polar areas, deserts, swamps, very high or rocky, mountainous areas). The other  $\frac{1}{8}$ th piece is the land area where people live, but not necessarily grow the foods needed for life.

Now slice this  $\frac{1}{8}$ th piece into four sections, giving you four  $\frac{1}{32}$ nd pieces. Set aside three of these pieces. These are areas too rocky, too wet, too cold, too steep, or with soil too poor to actually produce food. They also include the areas of land that could produce food but are buried under cities, highways, suburban developments, shopping centers and other structures that people have built.

This leaves us with a  $\frac{1}{32}$ nd slice of the earth. Carefully peel this slice. This tiny bit of peeling represents the surface, the very thin skin of the earth's crust upon which humans depend. Also, this bit of peeling represents the amount of soil which is used for food production to feed the world. Less than 5 feet deep, it is quite a fixed amount of food-producing land.

Now you realize that protecting our land resources is important too. Advanced agricultural technology has enabled the world to feed many of its people. But, with a fixed land resource base and an ever increasing number of people trying to feed themselves from the fixed base, each person's portion becomes smaller and smaller and more important to the individual person. We must protect the environmental quality of our air, water, and land.

## Water by Percent

97.20 salt water  
2.15 ice  
0.63 ground water  
0.02 surface water (lakes, rivers)

## Inner Apple

Red (crust)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  fruit (mantle)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  fruit (outer core)  
core (inner core)

