



All Our Eyes Believe

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In the air

The earth is surrounded by an invisible covering of air which is called the atmosphere. Humans cannot see it or touch it, but it is always there. Just as on land and under water, there is a lot going on in the air. Birds, bees, beetles and lots of other insects fly around or are carried on the wind like plant seeds. Humans can also move through the air, but they have to use airplanes, helicopters or parachutes to do so. The air is becoming dirtier and dirtier because of exhaust from cars and trucks and poisonous fumes from factories. In some places the blue sky is disappearing behind a dense grey fog of fine dust. This dust is so small that humans cannot see it, but sometimes it makes them cough.

The air is suffocating!

The universe

The universe, also called 'outer space', is unimaginably big and contains billions of stars and planets. However, there are only eight planets in our solar system circling around one sun. The earth we live on is a planet too. It takes one year for it to travel around the sun but only one day to spin around itself. When it turns, the sun shines on one side and then the other, and this is how day and night are made.

Planet question:

Can you name the other planets besides the earth?

The sun

The sun is a gigantic star that glows hot inside. The sun shines light and heat into the universe around it, and this reaches the planet Earth. Without the sun, life on planet Earth would not be possible. It warms up the ground, the seas and the air so that plants can grow. Different amounts of sunlight make different weather in different places and also cause the seasons and the climate zones like deserts or the arctic. Too much sunlight can hurt humans and give them sunburn. Too little can make them tired and sad.

Sun puzzle:

Guess how hot it is inside the sun:
A: Minus 46 degrees
B: Plus 37 degrees
C: 15 Million degrees
D: Changing all the time

Climate

Climate is what we call the weather pattern that repeats in one place over many years. Because the earth is so big, there are many different climate zones. In some places on the earth, for example, it is warm and damp. In other places it can be dry and hot, and in another place, it can be frosty and cold.

Climate exercise:

Can you think of different climate zones in your body? How cold are your feet? How warm is your belly button? How damp is your nose or your tongue?

Weather

The weather changes all the time. One moment it can be pouring with rain and the next the sun comes out. We can feel weather events like wind, rain and snow as well as hot or cold temperatures with our bodies, and sometimes it changes our mood. Scientists can use weather stations to measure changes in the air and use it to predict the weather. The science of weather is called 'meteorology', and the scientists are called 'meteorologists'.

Weather exercise:

Describe the dance piece *All Our Eyes Believe* as if you were a meteorologist. What scenes were warm, and in which did you feel ice cold? Were there storms or moments of calm? Did something like rain fall, or were you blown by wind?



On Land

About a third of the earth is dry land. There are mountains and hills, forests and fields, snow and ice, cliffs and sand. The surface of the earth can be divided into different areas called vegetation zones. Each vegetation zone has its own climate with various plants and animals that live there. Sometimes humans destroy these areas by cutting the forests down or draining wet places in order to build cities, streets and leisure parks. They also dig deep into the earth to find things like coal, gold or oil, which they process and sell for lots of money.

Trees

Trees can taste things, smell things, feel things, hear them and see them. They don't do this like humans who have sense organs like eyes and ears but rather with their roots and leaves. This is how they can feel light or water, for example, and move towards them. Most trees live together in large families. Their roots are connected under the earth like a network, and this is how they talk to each other. They talk about whether they have enough water or if there is something nearby that is eating some of them. Trees do extremely important things for humans and animals by producing the oxygen they need to breathe.

The earth is shaking with anger!



Draw a tree:

The tree is unhappy about how the world around it looks and smells. What does it think the world should be like? How should the world change? Draw the tree, and write in a speech bubble what it's saying.

Colour the coral in: lots of different colours and bring it back to life!



Coral reef: A coral reef is a large group of corals living together. Algae, sponges, sea urchins, crabs and different-sized fish all make their homes inside and around them. Corals need a certain water temperature to stay alive. If the water gets just one degree hotter, they die. When they die, they lose their colour and turn white. All that is left is a skeleton made from white chalk.

Ants

Ants live in large families inside anthills. These anthills are made of rooms and corridors under the earth. Ants are hard workers and well-organised. Every ant has a job to do. Some guard the anthill. Others look after the ant eggs, and others search for food. Ants have superpowers. They can lift, drag or push leaves, pieces of wood or dead insects much much larger and heavier than themselves. Some ants can carry 30-40 times their own body weight!

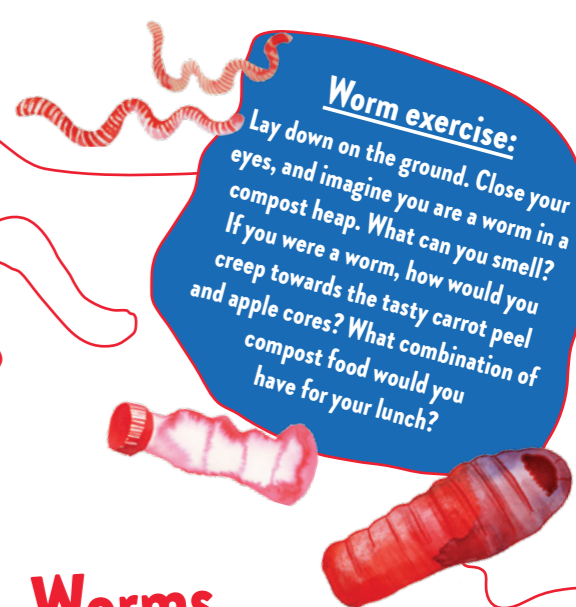
Ant exercise:

Choose an object or another person and carry them across the room like an ant. Try different ways of moving them like pushing, pulling, and carrying, or invent your own superpower technique.



Worm exercise:

Lay down on the ground. Close your eyes, and imagine you are a worm in a compost heap. What can you smell? If you were a worm, how would you creep towards the tasty carrot peel and apple cores? What combination of compost food would you have for your lunch?



Worms

Organic things like vegetables, egg shells, apple peels, wilted flowers and coffee grounds are put in the compost. Worms, insects and bacteria eat and break down this wild mixture of things. This process of breaking down makes the compost heap warmer and warmer. When a compost heap is steaming, the things that live in it are hard at work.

One of the creatures that lives in compost is the earthworm. It is reddish-brown, long and thin and doesn't have any arms or legs. It is also deaf, dumb and doesn't speak. Even though it doesn't have a nose, it can still smell things. It senses smells through its skin. It moves forward by stretching its body out and pulling it back in.

Living spaces

Humans, plants and animals all live on the earth. Humans live in houses, apartments, huts, igloos and tents. Most animals also have a home. Honey bees live in hives. Spiders spin webs, and snails and crabs carry their homes around with them. Birds build nests from twigs, grass and moss. Foxes and badgers live in underground homes. There are also animals that don't have a permanent home like fish, sharks, rays and even elephants.



Draw a snail shell:

Imagine that you are a snail. What would your shell look like? How would it be decorated inside? What are the most important things you need to have? Draw the snail shell of your dreams.

Octopuses

Imagine that you are an octopus. Describe your arms and legs. How would you move if they were octopus tentacles? How would you hide if you made yourself small enough? Try it out and describe your octopus movements.



Sponges

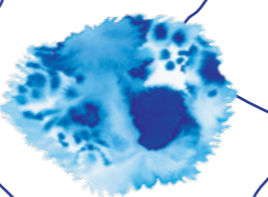
Most sponges live in the sea, but there are also some that live in lakes and rivers. They grow into different shapes, sizes and colours. Sponges are not plants, they are animals. They go into different shapes, sizes and colours, or even a trail! Normally sponges are even though they don't have any organs, any muscles, or even a brain! Sponges are firmly attached to the sea floor. Earlier, people used to dive down to get sponges because they wanted to use them for cleaning their bodies in showers and bathtubs. Nowadays sponges are farmed so that they can be gathered more easily.

Octopus exercise:

Imagine that you are an octopus. Describe your arms and legs. How would you move if they were octopus tentacles? How would you hide if you made yourself small enough? Try it out and describe your octopus movements.

Sponge quiz:

How old is Amoebiclyx Joubin?
A: 8 years old
B: 350 years old
C: 2,300 years old
D: At least 10,000 years old



Cleaning stations

In the ocean there are cleaning stations where the underwater animals can get clean. Small cleaner fish swim into the mouths of bigger fish and clean their gums and teeth off dead skin and germs. When they finish, the big fish are clean, and the small fish are full up.

Cleaning questions:

For how many minutes do you clean your teeth?
 How many times a day do you wash your hands?
 How many times a month do you tidy your room?
 How many times a year do you have your hair cut?

Flatfish

Flatfish do not swim with their bellies underneath them like other fish, but swim along the sea floor with their flat bodies sideways. In order to see better, both of their eyes are on one side of their head. It took many years for one of the eyes to move over to the other side of the head.

Flatfish exercise:

If you didn't have two eyes on the front of your head but both on the right or left side of your head instead, what would you see? How would your surroundings look to you? How would it affect the way you move?

Under Water

There is much more water than dry land on the earth. Five large oceans cover an area of 358,800,000 km². The water in the oceans is salty and can't be used as drinking water. There is relatively little fresh water on the earth, which is frozen in glaciers, flows into lakes and rivers or evaporates as clouds into the air. In spite of ocean currents, countless plants and animals live in water. Humans cannot survive under water, but they can swim in it and dive or move about on surfboards, ships and submarines. The oceans are becoming more and more polluted by rubbish and heavy metals, and along with climate change, oceans are getting warmer much faster than they are used to.

The ocean has a fever!



Find out more here!

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