



- The earth's diameter is 12 756 km. Its orbit is 149 600 000 km.
 - Earth is the third planet in our solar system and the fifth largest.
 - It is the densest major body in the solar system.
 - Earth's crust is divided into several separate solid plates which float on top of the hot mantle below.
- Earth is about 4.5 billion years old, but its surface is much younger (about 500 000 000 years). This is because erosion and plate tectonic processes destroy and recreate the Earth's surface continually. This has wiped out almost all of the meteorite craters that have been on the Earth. Only the most recent ones remain.
 - Earth is the only planet where liquid water can exist on the surface.
 - Earth's atmosphere is 77% nitrogen and 21% oxygen with traces of argon, carbon dioxide and water vapour. The carbon dioxide and water vapour produce a greenhouse effect where heat is trapped in the atmosphere. Without it, the Earth's average temperature would be -21 degrees Celsius. The oceans would freeze and life couldn't exist as we know it.
 - The Earth has a magnetic field produced by electrical currents within the outer core. This magnetic field protects the Earth from the harmful radiation produced by Sun.
 - The magnetic field produces the north and south magnetic poles. This field however is not fixed in the planet and can vary in strength and position. The north magnetic pole is now in northern Canada but is drifting northward towards Siberia.