

Solar System Exploration

Planets

Sitemap

SSE Home > Planets > Earth > Overview

Search



Home

News & Events

Planets

Our Solar System

Sun

Mercury

Venus

Earth

Earth's Moon

Mars

Asteroids

Meteoroids

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

Pluto

Overview

Moons

Gallery

Facts & Figures

Kid's Eye View

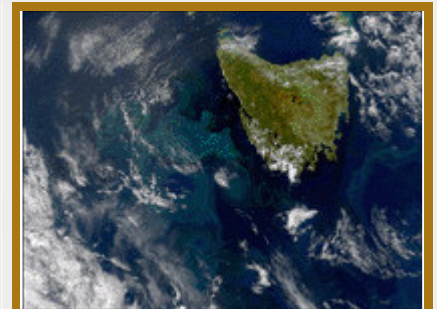
Earth:

Earth, our home planet, is the only planet in our solar system known to harbor life - life that is incredibly diverse. All of the things we need to survive are provided under a thin layer of atmosphere that separates us from the uninhabitable void of space. Earth is made up of complex, interactive systems that are often unpredictable. Air, water, land, and life - including humans - combine forces to create a constantly changing world that we are striving to understand.

Viewing Earth from the unique perspective of space provides the opportunity to see Earth as a whole. Scientists around the world have discovered many things about our planet by working together and sharing their findings.

Some facts are well known. For instance, Earth is the third planet from the Sun and the fifth largest in the solar system. Earth's diameter is just a few hundred kilometers larger than that of [Venus](#). The four seasons are a result of Earth's axis of rotation being tilted more than 23 degrees.

[Read More About Earth](#)



NASA's SeaWiFS satellite photographed this massive phytoplankton bloom off the coast of Tasmania in November 2000.

Just the Facts

Metric | English | Scientific Notation

Distance from the Sun: 149,597,890 km

Equatorial Radius: 6,378.14 km

Volume: 1,083,200,000,000 km³

Resources

- Missions to Earth
- Earth from Space: An Astronaut's View of the Home Planet
- Exploring the Planets - Earth
- Missions to Explore Earth
- NASA Earth Science Enterprise
- Compare Earth to other Planets/Moons

- [Comets](#)
- [Kuiper Belt](#)
- [Beyond Our Solar System](#)
- [Featured Question](#)
- [Solar System 101](#)
- [Missions](#)
- [Science & Technology](#)
- [Multimedia](#)
- [People](#)
- [Kids](#)
- [Education](#)
- [History](#)

Mass: 5,973,700,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 kg

More Resources

More Facts

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