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The Big Blue Marble



Did you know our Earth is called the “Big Blue Marble”? It’s because when astronauts look at it from space, it looks like a shiny blue marble with swirls of white and patches of green and brown. First, we have the continents. These are huge lands where we live and play. There are seven of them! Can you say their names? Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. They are like giant puzzle pieces that fit together on Earth.

Now, what about the big splashes of blue? Those are the oceans! There are five oceans, and they are super important because they give us water and are home to many fish and animals. The oceans are the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and Arctic. Earth also has mountains that reach up high like giants, rivers that flow like long snakes, and deserts that are big sandy playgrounds. But remember, some of the deserts are super hot, so we’d need lots of water to play there!

And don’t forget the forests! They are like Earth’s fluffy green hair, full of trees, birds, and animals. The next time you spin a globe or look at a map, try to remember all the names of the continents, oceans, and the great places you can find on our Big Blue Marble.

1. Read the passage about “The Big Blue Marble”.
2. Underline each word that you could not read or understand.

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Answer according to the reading passage:

1. Why is Earth sometimes called the Big Blue Marble?

- a. from outer spaces, that is what it looks like
- b. because the oceans swirl
- c. because through the telescope it looks like a marble

2. How many oceans are there?

- a. 4
- b. 5
- c. 6

3. How many continents are there?

- a. 5
- b. 6
- c. 7

4. What is meant by earth's fluffy green hair?

- a. the trees
- b. the forests
- c. the grass

5. What flows like long snakes?

- a. rivers
- b. oceans
- c. streams

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Open Response Questions

Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

- 1. Inferring**
- 2. Making Connections**
- 3. Summarizing**
- 4. Visualizing**

- 1. Explain why Earth looks like a big blue marble.**
- 2. Why do you think the oceans are important on earth?**
- 3. List 3 things you learned.**
- 4. Describe the Big Blue Marble.**

- What continent would you like to visit and why?**
- Why do you think some deserts are hot and sandy?**
- Describe the geographic features where you live.**
- Why do you think oceans and rivers are important?**
- If you could give Earth a different name, what would it be and why?**
- Can you name all the oceans and continents? Remember, 4 of the continents begin with A.**