

Water Systems on Earth

Some of the topics we will cover in this unit:

Water Cycle

Erosion

Glaciers

Oceans

Tides

Aquatic Life

Pollution

With your group on a single piece of paper answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think Earth called the blue planet?
2. List as many types of places water can be found on Earth (oceans etc.) as you can think of.
3. Make an educated guess of what percentage of the Earth's water is in each of the places you listed.

*Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.*

Excerpt from Rime of the Ancient Mariner - Samuel Coleridge (1798)

Liters of water on Earth:

1,386,000,000,000,000,000,000

Liters of water in oceans

1,338,000,000,000,000,000,000

Earth's Water Distribution

97% of all water is in oceans (salt water)

3% is fresh water

Of that 3%:

79% is ice

20% is groundwater

1% is above surface water

Of that 1%:

52% is in lakes

1% is in rivers

38% is soil moisture

8% is water vapor

1% is inside living creatures

Total distribution of water

97% ocean

2.4% ice

0.6% groundwater

0.02% lakes and rivers

0.002% water vapor

0.0003% inside living creatures

Assignment

Answer all 4 questions individually on a lined piece of paper then hand in.

- 1: Where is the vast majority of water on Earth located?
- 2: Where is the vast majority of fresh water on Earth located?
- 3: Is there more water in the ground or in lakes and rivers?
- 4: Is there more water in the air or in lakes and rivers?