

Earth Day

Comprehension

Freebie

The Place We All Call Home

Earth is one of eight planets in our solar system. It is very much unlike any of the other seven. There are many differences between it and the others, but quite possibly the biggest and most important, is that Earth is the only one, to our knowledge, to sustain life.

One of the biggest necessities for life is water. Earth is the only planet known to have liquid water in existence on the surface. Keep in mind that there is precisely enough water for humans and other living creatures to exist. If there was more, most land beings would drown. If there was less, most living things wouldn't survive. The Earth's position in the solar system is thought to play a key role in this. If it were any closer to the Sun, the Earth's water supply would dry up. On the other hand, if it were any farther away, it would freeze.

We are also able to survive on Earth because of its size. If the Earth were any smaller it would have trouble keeping the atmosphere the way that it is. If it not have the oxygen in the atmosphere that we need.

We can also thank our "big brothers" planet, Jupiter. Because of its massive size it helps to block the path of "space debris" that mostly consists of rocks ranging in size from a car to a moon. If one of these rocks were to come into contact with Earth, it could be disastrous.

As mentioned earlier, there is land on Earth for life to exist on. If the Earth consisted of just water, humans could not survive, or at least it would be very hard to do. It is believed that over billions of years molten rock cooled and became the Earth's crust, or surface. Because of things called tectonic plates moving below the Earth's surface we have high elevations like mountains.

For all the reasons mentioned above and others that were not mentioned, Earth is able to support life. It really is a special place to call home!

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Refer back to the article, if needed, to answer these questions.

1. Name three reasons the author states that Earth can support life.

2. What does it mean that Earth can sustain life? If you are unsure, refer back to the sentence, "There are many differences between it and the others, but quite possibly the biggest and most important, is that Earth is the only one, to our knowledge, to sustain life."

3. Earth Day is a special day in April when people take some extra time to appreciate our planet. What are two things that you could do to show your appreciation?



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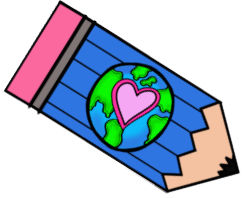
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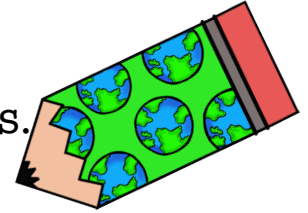
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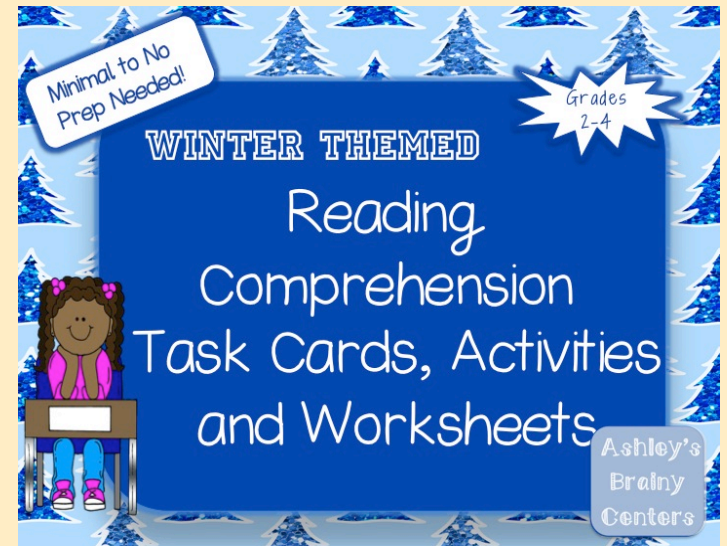
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