

A Slice of Soil

One of the most important natural resources on the earth's surface is soil. Many living things depend on it as a source of food, either directly or indirectly.

Our food producing land remains the same and yet the world population continues to grow. Consequently, each person's food portion becomes smaller and smaller. It is the responsibility of each generation to use the soil wisely to insure the future. You can conduct the following demonstration to show how little of the earth's surface is actually used for food production as compared to growing populations.

Materials

Large apple
Paring knife

Procedure

- Cut the apple into 4 equal parts. Three parts represent the oceans of the world. The fourth part represents the land area.
- Cut the land section in half lengthwise. Now you have two $\frac{1}{8}$ pieces. One section represents land such as deserts, swamps, Antarctic, Arctic, and mountain regions. The other $\frac{1}{8}$ section represents land where man can live and may be able to grow food.
- Slice this $\frac{1}{8}$ section crosswise into 4 equal parts. Three of these $\frac{1}{32}$ sections represent areas of the world which are too rocky, too wet, too hot, or where soils are too poor for production, as well as areas developed by man.
- Carefully peel the last $\frac{1}{32}$ section. This small bit of peeling represents the soil of the earth on which mankind depends for food production.
- Share the juicy apple with a friend!