

WOW! Wonders of Water

The Blue Planet

Earth is called the **Blue Planet**. That's because so much of it is covered with water. From outer space, Earth looks mostly blue. That's all the liquid water. Earth has frozen water at the poles and in glaciers. From outer space, those places look white.



How much of Earth is water? Three out of four parts are covered with it. So if Earth were a dollar, three quarters of it would be water. That's a lot of blue!

But most of that water is in the oceans. We can't drink saltwater or use it to grow food or plants and flowers.

Just 3 percent of the water on Earth is fresh water. Think of it this way: If all

the water on Earth equaled 100 drops, just three of those drops would be fresh enough to use.



A lot of the planet's water is locked in glaciers and polar ice caps. Of the rest, half is beneath the Earth's surface. Remember Brownie Elf and the groundwater?

With billions of people living on Earth, that's not a lot of water to drink and to use. That's why it's so important to save water and keep it clean.

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Earth's **POLES** are the South Pole in Antarctica and the North Pole in the Arctic Ocean. Imagine Earth spinning like a top. The poles are the farthest ends and they are frozen solid.



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GLACIERS are huge sheets of ice formed when snow gathers and freezes. Thick, slow-moving glaciers often look soft blue.