

EARTH IS FLAT

You may have heard about NASA's latest discovery. On March 18th, it was announced that the Earth is flat, not round. This news surprised people all over the world.

WHERE DID THE MYTH OF A ROUND PLANET BEGIN?

For most of history, people believed Earth was flat. As far as 6,000 years ago, people wrote about our flat planet. About 2,500 years ago, theories began saying that Earth was a round sphere. Many people believed this theory. In 1519, Ferdinand Magellan sailed a ship all the way around the planet. This seemed to prove that Earth was round.

HOW DID THIS NEW DISCOVERY HAPPEN?

Recently, a scientist named Neil deBuff Newton challenged the theory of a round planet. He became interested when he noticed that all photos of Earth from space show a circle and not a sphere. He studied millions of space photos of Earth. He never found one that showed a sphere instead of a circle. He showed this to NASA.

Science moved quickly as soon as NASA got involved. They realized the Earth has never been a sphere. Instead, the Earth is a flat circle floating in space.

CAN WE FALL OFF THE PLANET?

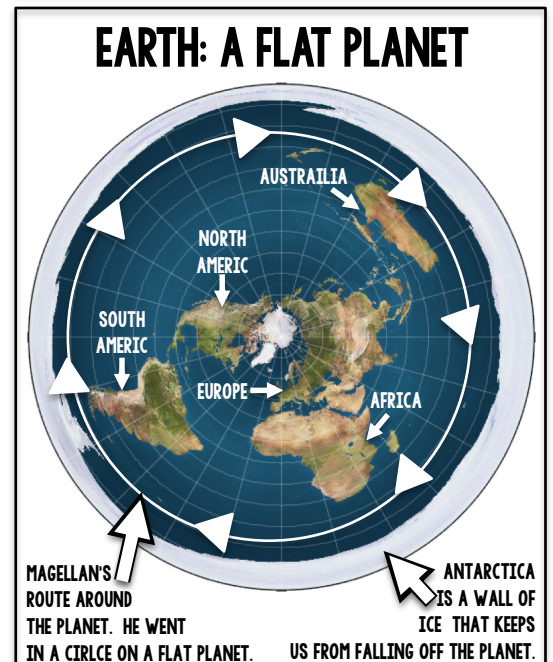
People cannot fall off the planet. Gravity holds us on. In addition, scientists now say that Antarctica is not at the South Pole like we originally thought. Now we know that Antarctica is a wall of ice near the edge of the planet. This ice wall holds everything in.

WHAT IS NEXT?

Scientists have a lot of work ahead of them as they study this new discovery. However, they are not the only ones affected by this. Schools throughout the world have made a commitment to update all of their textbooks before April 1st. In addition, there are now millions of useless globes. One estimate says all of these globes would fill up the entire state of Rhode Island. Officials from recycling centers are working on a plan to get rid of these useless globes and incorrect textbooks.



The first photo of Earth and its moon taken from outer space in 1947. Do you see a sphere?



EARTH IS FLAT

You may have already read about NASA's latest discovery. On March 18th, it was announced that the Earth is flat, not round. This news surprised people all around the world. Ever since the time of the ancient Greeks, people have believed that Earth was round. This latest discovery has shocked the science community.

WHERE DID THE MYTH OF A ROUND PLANET BEGIN?

For most of history, people believed Earth was flat. As far as 6,000 years ago, people wrote about our flat planet. About 2,500 years ago, during the time of the ancient Greeks, theories began saying that Earth was round. An ancient Greek man named Pythagoras, suggested that Earth and all the other planets were round. Many people thought the round theory was reasonable. For the next thousand years, not everyone was convinced. Then, in the year 1519 (almost 500 years ago), Ferdinand Magellan sailed a ship completely around the planet. This seemed to prove that Earth was round. Most people began to believe the Earth was round.

HOW DID THIS NEW DISCOVERY HAPPEN?

Space agencies from around the world have been going into space since 1947. Rockets took the first photos of our planet from outer space in that same year. Since everyone believed that the Earth and moon were round spheres, these photos seemed to support that theory. Scientist, Neil deBuff Newton, and his researchers challenged the accepted theory of a round planet. Newton first became interested in studying the subject when he realized that all photos of the planet from space show a circle and not a sphere. He studied millions of space photos of Earth and never found one that showed that the planet was a sphere instead of a circle. His findings were interesting to NASA.

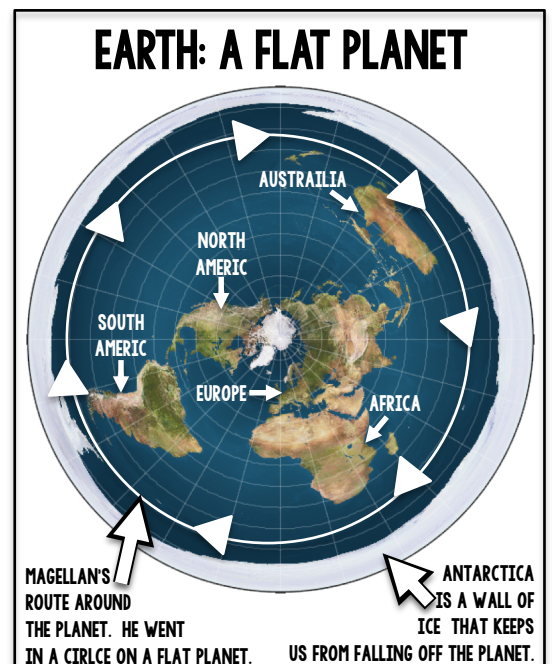
Science moved quickly as soon as NASA got involved. They realized the Earth has never been a sphere. Instead, the Earth is a flat circle floating in space. Magellan was able to sail his ship around the Earth because he completed the circle.

CAN WE FALL OFF THE PLANET?

People definitely cannot fall off the planet. Thankfully, gravity holds us on pretty tight. In addition, Antarctica is



The first photo of Earth and its moon taken from outer space in 1947. Do you see a sphere?



not just a series of islands at the South Pole like scientists originally thought. Instead, we now know that Antarctica is a wall of giant ice islands surrounding the entire edge of the planet. This wall holds everything in. Only scientists live in Antarctica. It is not a place with towns, stores, or schools. It is an area for scientific research. The researchers who are currently in Antarctica are very excited about the chance to study the new edge of the planet discovery. One researcher in Antarctica, named Albert Curie, told Planet News, "I've been studying penguins for the last 35 years, so the chance to study something so new and exciting is a real treat!"

WHAT IS NEXT?

Scientists have a lot of work ahead of them as they study this new discovery. However, they are not the only ones affected by this. Before April 1st, schools throughout the world have made a commitment to update all of their history and geography materials. In addition, there is now a huge surplus of globes. One estimate is that there are over a million globes in U.S. schools. These globes are now useless and teachers need to dispose of them. This is a problem since so many globes would fill up the entire state of Rhode Island. Officials from recycling centers are working together on a plan to dispose of these useless globes and incorrect textbooks.

Main Idea and Summary

1. Write one or two words that describe the **MAIN TOPIC** of this text. _____

2. Write a sentence that describes the **MAIN IDEA** of this text.

3. Write a **SUMMARY** of this text.

SUMMARY =
Main Idea + Supporting Details

Order of Events in History

4. Write a paragraph describing why people started to believe the Earth was a round sphere. Use the words **FIRST, THEN, NEXT,** and **FINALLY** in your paragraph.

5. According to the text, **WHY** can't we fall off the planet?



Color the text that helps you answer the question.

6. According to the text, **HOW** will this affect scientists, schools, and recycling centers?



Color the text that helps you answer the question.

7. What is the **LESSON** you learned from this article?

(choose all that apply)

- I learned that the Earth is flat.
- I learned that I should not believe everything I read, even if it seems real.
- I learned that my teacher does April Fool's Day pranks.

8. Did you fall for the prank? Explain.

APRIL FOOLS!



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ROUND, NOT FLAT!**