

What are the parts of the earth?



KEY TERMS

lithosphere: solid part of the earth

hydrosphere: part of the earth that is water

atmosphere: layer of gases that surrounds the earth

LESSON 4 | What are the parts of the earth?

You gaze into the sky on a clear night. What do you see? Stars. The blackness of space is dotted with stars.

Can you see any stars during the daytime? Yes, just one . . . the sun. The sun is a star. Nine planets circle the sun. We live on one of these planets, the planet Earth.

What makes the planet Earth so special? Earth has the right conditions for life. It has the proper mixture of gases, reasonable temperature, and a large amount of water. Earth also has solid land that can support life.

Scientists have given names to the solid, liquid, and gas parts of the earth. They are the **lithosphere** [LITH-oh-sfeer], the **hydrosphere** [HY-droh-sfeer], and the **atmosphere** [AT-muhs-feer].

LITHOSPHERE The lithosphere is the solid part of the earth. It is made up of rocks, minerals, and soil. The ground you walk on is part of the lithosphere. Mountains also are part of the lithosphere. The lithosphere extends under the oceans and makes up the continents.

HYDROSPHERE The hydrosphere is the part of the earth that is water. Salt water makes up about 97% of the hydrosphere. Salt water is found mostly in the oceans. Fresh water makes up the remaining water on the earth. Fresh water is found in rivers, lakes, and streams. Most of the fresh water of the earth is frozen in glaciers.

ATMOSPHERE The atmosphere is the gas layer that surrounds the earth. The air you breathe is part of the atmosphere. Living things need two important gases of the atmosphere in order to survive. These gases are oxygen and carbon dioxide.

PLANET EARTH

Look at the drawings of the earth. Then follow the directions.



Figure A



Figure B

1. Fill in the lithosphere with a pencil.
2. Fill in the hydrosphere with a blue pencil or pen.
3. Look at the atmosphere. The shading gets lighter as you go higher because the higher you go, the _____ air there is.
less, more

COMPLETE THE CHART

Complete the chart by filling in the missing information. Place a check mark in the correct column.

PART	LITHOSPHERE	ATMOSPHERE	HYDROSPHERE
1. Mountains			
2. Carbon Dioxide			
3. Glaciers			
4. Rivers			
5. Continents			
6. Oxygen			
7. Oceans			
8. Rocks			
9. Lakes			
10. Soil			

FILL IN THE BLANK

Complete each statement using a term or terms from the list below. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

carbon dioxide
hydrosphere
glaciers
sun

nine
lithosphere
oxygen
oceans

atmosphere
planet
temperature

1. Earth is a _____ .
2. The planets circle the _____ .
3. _____ planets move around the sun.
4. The solid part of the earth's surface is called the _____ .
5. The gases that surround our planet make up the _____ .
6. The part of the earth that is water is the _____ .
7. Most of the fresh water of the earth is frozen in _____ .
8. Two important gases of the atmosphere are _____ and _____ .
9. Life exists on the earth because it has the proper mix of gases, reasonable _____ , and a large amount of water.
10. Salt water is found mostly in the _____ .

MATCHING

Match each term in Column A with its description in Column B. Write the correct letter in the space provided.

Column A	Column B
_____ 1. salt water	a) makes up about 97% of the hydrosphere
_____ 2. atmosphere	b) water layer
_____ 3. hydrosphere	c) rocks, minerals, and soil
_____ 4. lithosphere	d) gases needed by living things
_____ 5. oxygen and carbon dioxide	e) mixture of gases

NAME THE "SPHERES"

Each part of the diagram below belongs to either the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, or the lithosphere. Find each letter in the diagram. In the space provided, answer the questions.

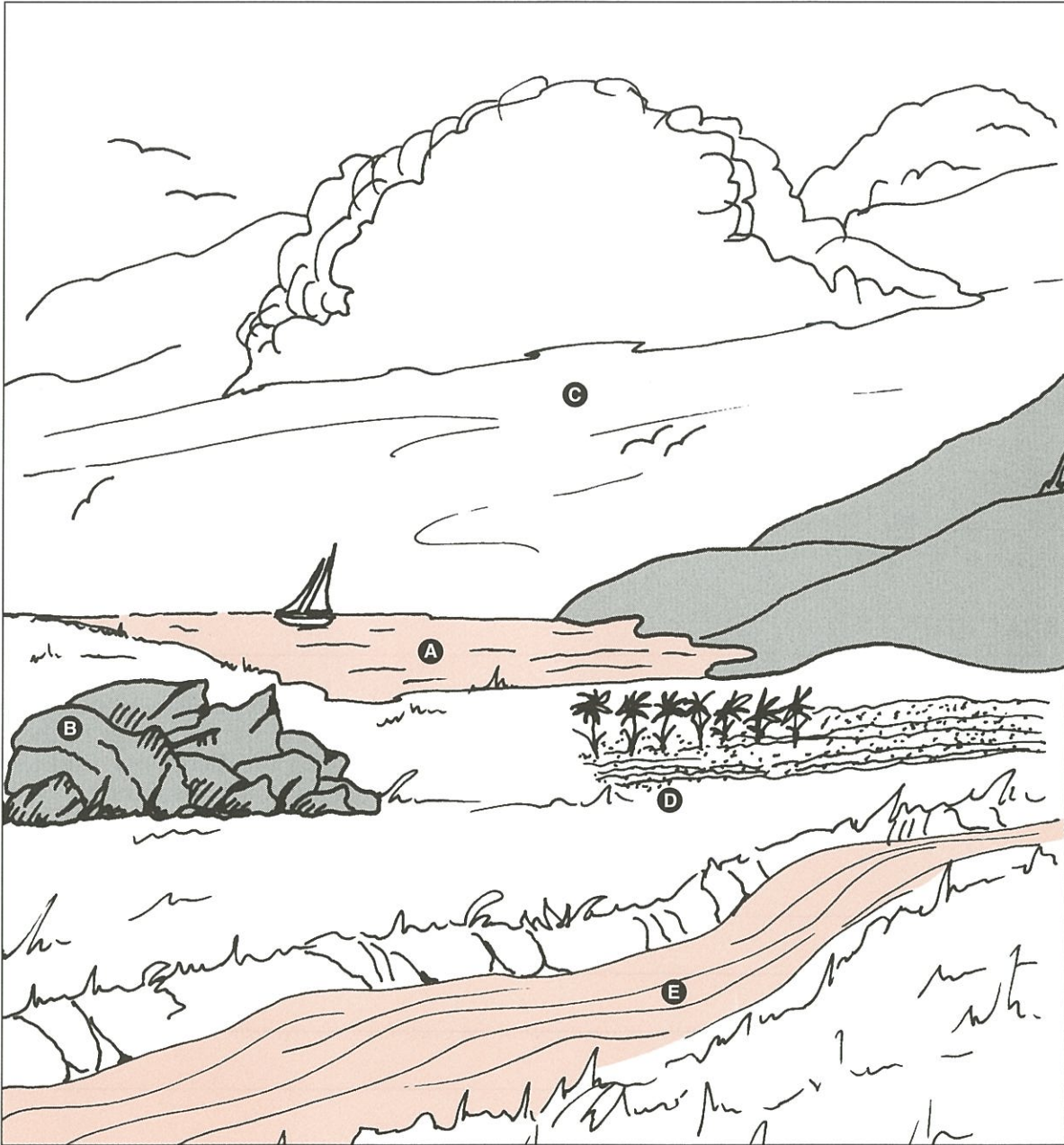


Figure C

1. Letter A is part of which "sphere"? _____
2. Letter B is part of the _____
3. Letter C is part of the _____
4. Letter D is part of the _____
5. Letter E is part of the _____

TRUE OR FALSE

In the space provided, write "true" if the sentence is true. Write "false" if the sentence is false.

- _____ 1. The lithosphere is found only under the oceans.
- _____ 2. The lithosphere is a mixture of gases.
- _____ 3. Soil is part of the lithosphere.
- _____ 4. Oxygen is part of the atmosphere.
- _____ 5. Living things need carbon dioxide and oxygen.
- _____ 6. The air you breathe is part of the hydrosphere.
- _____ 7. Earth has the right conditions for life.
- _____ 8. The hydrosphere is made up of a mixture of gases.
- _____ 9. All rivers and lakes contain salt water.
- _____ 10. The ground you walk on is part of the lithosphere.

REACHING OUT

A prefix is a word part that is placed at the beginning of some words. Two prefixes are used in this lesson, "litho-" and "hydro." Use a dictionary to find the meanings of these prefixes. Write the meanings of these prefixes below. Then, using the dictionary, find two additional words that contain each prefix. Write these words and their meanings.

"litho-" _____

"hydro-" _____
