



Paper Mache Earth

Make a model of the Earth!

Materials Needed:

Flour, water, bowl, whisk, inflatable balloon, paper (newspaper, copy paper, or paper towels), tissue paper or paint (blue, green, brown, and white)

Instructions:

Step 1: Prepare paper mache paste. Mix 1 part flour to 2 parts water in a bowl. Whisk until mixture is smooth.

Step 2: Inflate a balloon until it is roughly round.

Step 3: Tear strips of paper. Dip paper strips in paper mache paste and cover the balloon completely with the wet paper. Apply at least 3-4 layers so the dry ball will hold its shape when dry. Leave a very small opening by the knot.

Step 4: Observe the Earth picture on the next page.

Then choose how to color your Earth:

Hint: Place the North or South Pole by the knot opening.

Tissue paper: Tear blue tissue paper to cover the wet ball. Tear green and brown tissue paper for continents. Add white for ice caps and clouds. For older children, cut the green tissue paper to look like continents. Leave to dry for 2-3 days.

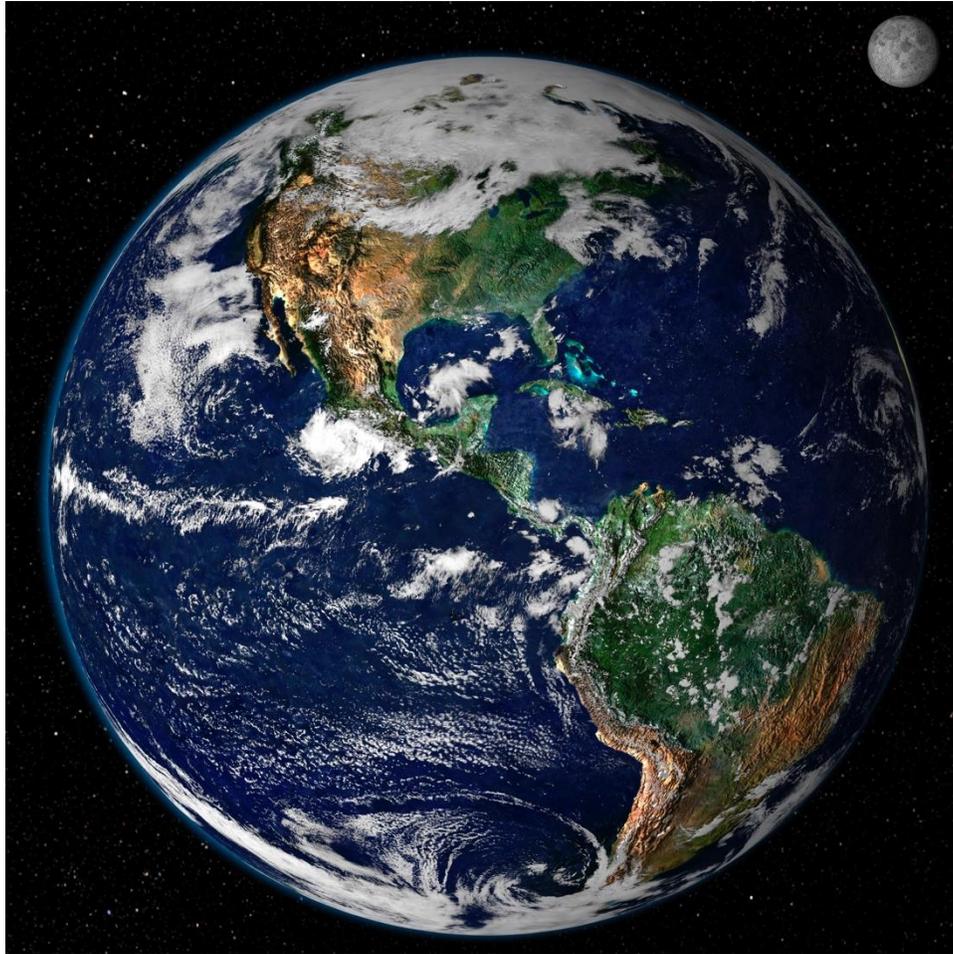
Paint: Let the ball dry for 2-3 days. When it is completely dry, decorate it with blue, green, brown, and white paint to look like the Earth.

Step 5: Once your paper mache Earth is completely dry, pop the balloon and remove it through the small opening.



Take your Earth ball outside and observe which side is light and which is dark. As Earth spins and different sides of the planet face the Sun, we have nights and days!

Water, Land, and Clouds



*Earth as seen from 22,000 miles away. Image by NASA/Goddard, Earth Observatory.
eoimages.gsfc.nasa.gov/images/imagerecords/0/885/modis_wonderglobe_lrg.jpg*

Oceans cover about 71% of the Earth's surface. They provide habitat for millions of species, produce over half of the world's oxygen, and absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The rest of Earth is covered in **land**. There are many kinds of land: high mountains, deserts, areas covered in snow and ice, forests, grasslands, and more. Humans live on most parts of the Earth, and animal and plant life are almost everywhere!

Clouds travel in Earth's atmosphere. They play an important role in both warming and cooling our planet.