

# Waikato

# ENVIROSCHOOLS



## Sustainability - The Big Picture

### The Earth as an Apple Activity

This is an edible activity (using fractions and percentages) which quickly and simply shows how limited Earth's resources are by comparing it to an apple

You will need:

- An apple
- a knife



1. Take the apple. The whole apple represents planet Earth. Breathe on it - this is the atmosphere around the earth.
2. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Earth is covered by oceans. Cut apple into quarters and remove three of the pieces, leaving only one-quarter of the apple in your hand. This  $\frac{1}{4}$  represents represents land.
3.  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the remaining quarter is desert, too dry to live on. Cut off about a third, leaving a little more than two-thirds of the quarter, or about  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the apple.
4. Another  $\frac{1}{3}$  is mountains, too high to live on. Cut the remaining peice in half, leaving a little more than one twelfth of the apple.
5. Of this remaining piece, only the crust (skin) is used as living space for humans and other land animals - trim the skin from the small piece of apple.
6. How long it will be before our lifestyles and growing populations take up all the available living space? Eat the remaining skin to symbolise consuming the living space.

## Reflection/extension:

How much of the apple is actually habitable for people and other land-dwelling creatures? Can you work out percentage of oceans, ice, desert and mountains, and habitable land?

What are some examples of sustainable, and fair use of resources?



## Sustainability Action Questions:

1. Do you walk, bike or travel by bus to school?
2. Do you wrap your school lunch in cling film?
3. Do you collect food scraps for the compost or worm bin?
4. Do you grow vegetables at home?
5. Do you turn off a light whenever you leave a room?
6. Do you leave the tap running when you clean your teeth?
7. Do you throw paper away when you have only used one side?
8. Do you turn off the TV at the wall?
9. Brainstorm some other ideas you could do to reduce your impact on planet Earth.

Explore **The Story of Stuff** - a global movement with videos, challenges and resources to help us all think about our relationship with stuff and how what we can do to make a difference [The Story of Stuff](#)



Do you think that limited resources are shared fairly in our world?

Explore Fairtrade: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeUGvhINwHw>

