

A Slice of Soil



One of the most important natural resources that covers much of the earth's land surface is soil. All living things depend on it as a source of food, either directly or indirectly.

Our food producing land remains the same and yet the world population continues to grow. As a result, each person's food portion becomes smaller and smaller. It is the responsibility of each generation to use the soil wisely to insure the future. The following demonstration shows how little of the earth's surface is actually used for food production as compared with growing populations.

Materials:

- Large apple (softer apples work better)
- Paring knife (or heavy plastic knife)

Procedure:

1. Cut the apple into four equal parts. Three parts represent the oceans of the world. The fourth part represents the land area.
2. Cut the land section in half lengthwise. Now you have two one-eighth pieces. One section represents land such as deserts, swamps, Antarctic, arctic, and mountain regions. The other one-eighth section represents land where people can live but may or may not grow food.
3. Slice this one-eighth section crosswise into four equal parts. Three of these one thirty-second sections represent areas of the world which are too rocky, too wet, too hot, or where soils are too poor for production, as well as developed areas.
4. Carefully peel the last one thirty-second section. This small bit of peeling represents the soil of our earth upon which mankind depends for food production.