

EARTH IS FLAT

A LEXILE LEVEL - 720L WORDS - 314

NAME:

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.

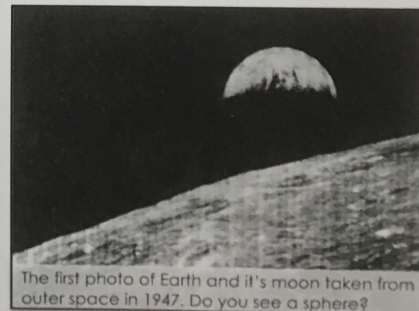
WHERE DID THE MYTH OF A ROUND PLANET BEGIN?

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?

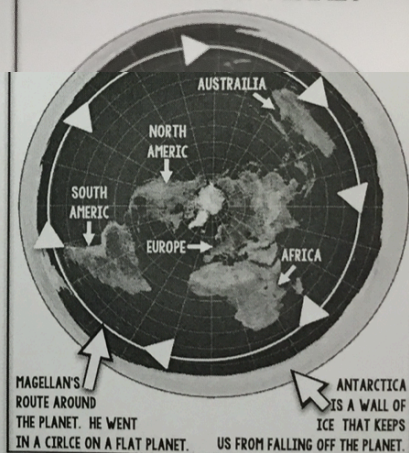
Recently, a scientist named Neil deBuff Newton challenged the theory of a round planet. He became interested when he noticed that all photos of Earth from space show a circle and not a sphere. He studied millions of space photos of Earth. He never found one that showed a sphere instead of a circle. He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



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

EARTH: A FLAT PLANET



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.

RESPOND
EARTH IS FLAT

NAME: _____

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.

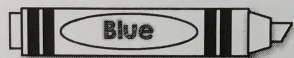
Ask and Answer Questions

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.
