

Evershine

Pathways

echo series

# Social Studies

3

by  
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## Preface

**Pathways** is a series of five Social Studies books based on the latest guidelines of the various educational boards for classes 1 to 5. The series has been designed to introduce social studies in an innovative ways to young learners.

Since today's child is tomorrow's citizen, he or she must be made to realize what he or she receives from the society and what he or she is expected to contribute it. This is the main aim of understanding the subject of social studies.

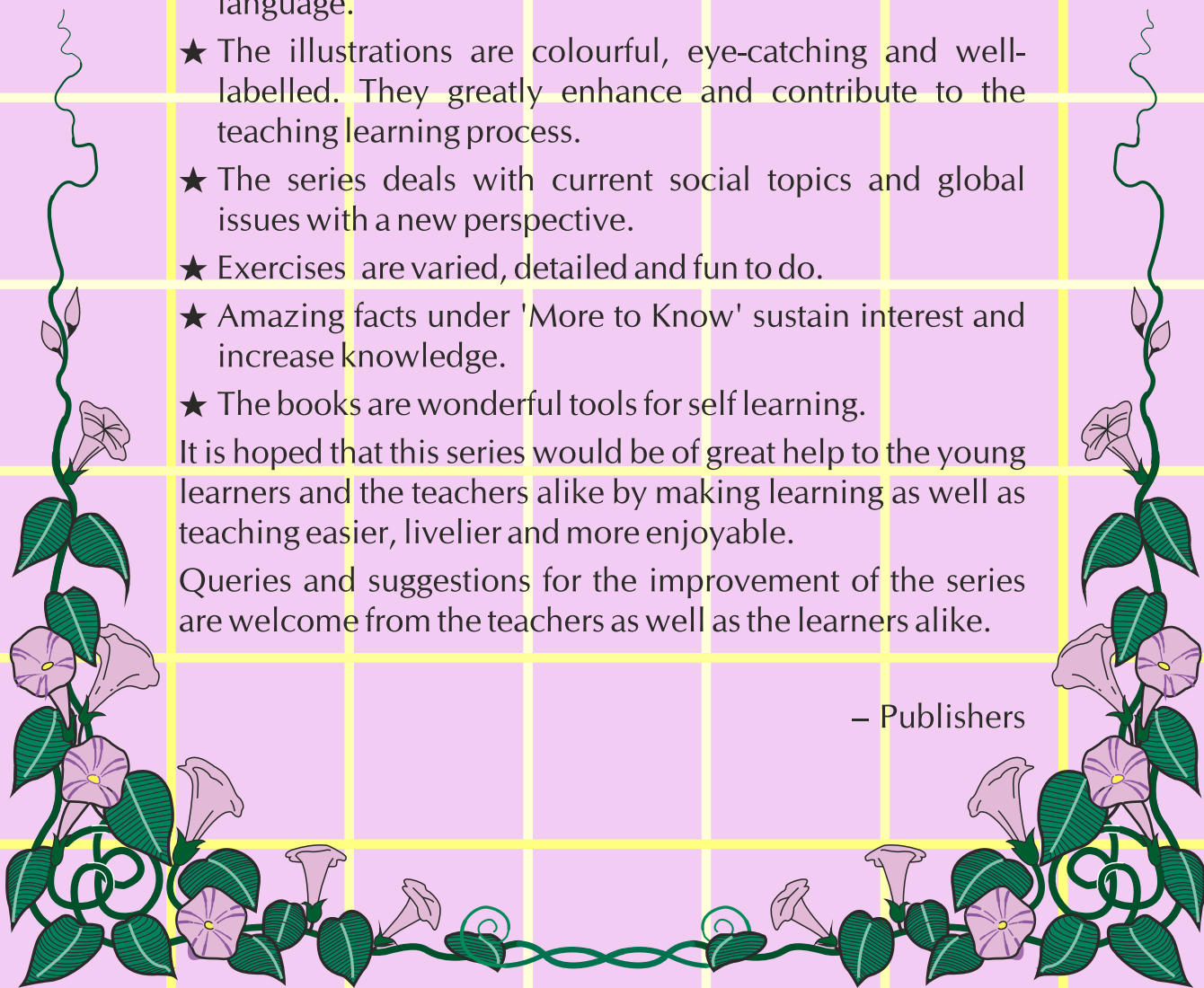
The special features of the series are follows :

- ★ The books are written in simple, easy to understand language.
- ★ The illustrations are colourful, eye-catching and well-labelled. They greatly enhance and contribute to the teaching learning process.
- ★ The series deals with current social topics and global issues with a new perspective.
- ★ Exercises are varied, detailed and fun to do.
- ★ Amazing facts under 'More to Know' sustain interest and increase knowledge.
- ★ The books are wonderful tools for self learning.

It is hoped that this series would be of great help to the young learners and the teachers alike by making learning as well as teaching easier, livelier and more enjoyable.

Queries and suggestions for the improvement of the series are welcome from the teachers as well as the learners alike.

– Publishers



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# Chapter 1

## Unit-1 : Our Earth

# THE EARTH - OUR HOME

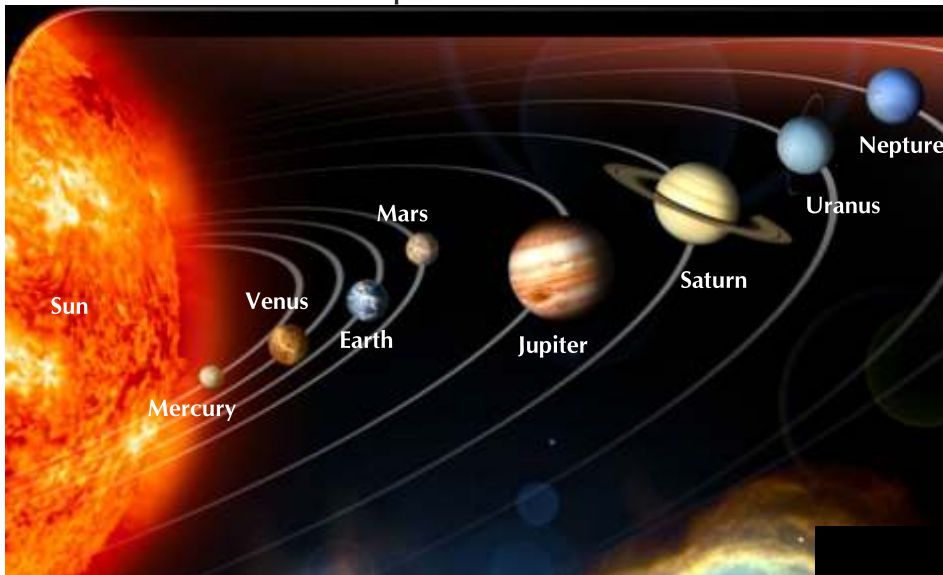
The Earth on which we live is a planet. Planets are heavenly bodies that go around the sun.

There are eight planets in all. They are **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus** and **Neptune**.

These planets together with the sun make the **solar system**. The planets revolve around the sun in fixed paths called **orbits**.

### Learning Outcome

Learn the shape of the earth, its surface and what makes it a livable place.



Solar System

The earth is the home of all living beings including plants, animals, human beings and birds. There is no other planet in the solar system which has life on it.

### SHAPE OF THE EARTH

The earth is **round** in shape. It looks like a huge round ball.

Long ago, people thought that the earth was flat. They were afraid of going beyond a certain distance, fearing that they would fall off its edge!

### Did You Know?

Until 2006, there were nine planets in the solar system. However, on 24 August 2006, Pluto was excluded from the family of the solar system.



Our Earth

About 500 years ago in 1519, a Portuguese sailor, **Ferdinand Magellan** started a long journey from Spain. He kept sailing in only one direction. After three years, his ship returned to the same place from where he had started his journey. This proved that the earth is round like a ball and not flat as people earlier thought.



Ferdinand Magellan



Magellan's Route

Many years later in 1969, American astronauts **Neil Armstrong** and **Edwin Aldrin** landed on the moon. They took many photographs of the earth from the moon. These photographs also show that the earth is round in shape.

However, the earth is not perfectly round. It is slightly flat at the top and at the bottom. These flat areas are called the **poles**. The two poles of the earth are the **North Pole** and the **South Pole**.

#### Fact File

India successfully launched its first unmanned mission **Chandrayaan I** to the moon on 22 October, 2008.



Neil Armstrong



Edwin Aldrin

## SURFACE OF THE EARTH

The earth is made up of **land** and **water**. About three-fourths of the earth's surface is water and only one-fourth is land.

The earth is surrounded by a thin layer of air called the **atmosphere**. Life is possible on the earth because it has **air, water** and **land**.

If you look out far from a high building, the land and sky seem to meet with each other. But in reality, they do not meet. The place where the land and the sky seem to meet is called the **horizon**. If we go closer to the horizon, it will move further away.

Have you ever been near a sea? The place where the land and the sea meet is called the **coast**. You may feel that the sea water and the sky meet at a distance but this is not true.



The earth has many physical features like **plains, mountains, hills, valleys, forests, deserts, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, seas** and **oceans**. The earth is our beautiful home. We should take care of it.

### NEW WORDS

- Planets : heavenly bodies which revolve around the sun  
Atmosphere : the layer of the air that surrounds the earth  
Horizon : the place where the land and the sky seem to meet



### RECALL

- ☆ The earth is **round** in shape.
- ☆ The earth is made up of **land** and **water**.
- ☆ **Ferdinand Magellan** was the first to sail around the earth.
- ☆ The earth is the only planet which has **life** on it.



# THINK AND ANSWER



## A. Answer the following questions.

1. How many planets are there in the solar system?  
.....
2. What is the shape of the earth?  
.....
3. What are the North Pole and the South Pole?  
.....
4. What makes the earth a suitable place for living beings?  
.....

## B. Complete the words :

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Heavenly bodies that go around the sun        | P  _____ |
| 2. The home of all living beings                 | E  _____ |
| 3. Flat areas at the top and bottom of the earth | P  _____ |
| 4. A thin layer of air around the earth          | A  _____ |
| 5. The place where the land and the sea meet     | C  _____ |

## C. Write True or False :

1. Our earth is a planet. ....
2. The planets revolve around the earth. ....
3. There is more water than land on the earth. ....
4. Life exists on the earth because of air and water. ....
5. The land and the sky do not meet each other. ....

## D. Write the names of the eight planets in the solar system.

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1. .... | 2. .... |
| 3. .... | 4. .... |
| 5. .... | 6. .... |
| 7. .... | 8. .... |

**E. Tick (✓) the correct option.**

- The first man to go around the world was  
(a) Abel Tasman  (b) Christopher Columbus   
(c) Francis Drake  (d) Ferdinand Magellan
- The place where the land and the sky seem to meet is called the  
(a) Coast  (b) Horizon   
(c) Shore  (d) Space
- Ferdinand Magellan belonged to  
(a) Spain  (b) Portugal   
(c) France  (d) Germany
- Who was the first to land on the moon?  
(a) Yuri Gagarin  (b) Neil Armstrong   
(c) Rakesh Sharma  (d) Kalpana Chawla

**MORE TO KNOW**

- ☆ If you put the earth on a scale, it would weigh about **600 million million million tonnes**.
- ☆ The earth is about **4.6 billion** years old.
- ☆ The earth looks **blue** from space because of water. So it is also called the **blue planet** or **watery planet**.
- ☆ The sun is about **150 million** km away from the earth. The moon is about **3,85,000 km** away from the earth.

**ACTIVITY**

Gather information about the following Indian astronauts (space travellers) from your library books or Internet.



Rakesh Sharma



Kalpana Chawla



Sunita Williams