



Auntie Em, There Is No Place Like Home

Have you ever pulled an old blanket over a table, dragged in some pillows and stuffed friends, and stood back to admire your new home? Or hammered together some planks of wood high up in a tree, then climbed up amongst the leafy branches and called it “**Home**”?

Home is where we all belong, a place we come back to, a place just for us.

Perhaps you call home a secluded cabin tucked away in quiet woods? An apartment overlooking the twinkling lights of the city? A hut squatting on stilts in a tangle of jungle clearing? A floating boat, docked at the end of a pier?

Every person, everywhere, has a home, no matter where it is or what it looks like.

Once when my little brother was at the zoo, he got lost and couldn’t find his way home. A kind man stopped to ask the teary-eyed little fellow where his home was. What did it look like? How big was it? Did he know the name of the people who lived in his home?

Do you think he responded something like this?

“My home is held up in the middle of space. Home is like a big, round ball, slowly turning so every twelve hours it soaks in warm sunshine and then sleeps the next 12 hours in darkness. My home is so big that nearly 8 billion people, speaking several thousand languages, live there — along with lions and parrots and beluga whales and polar bears and pythons. And there are 333 million cubic miles of water to sail about right inside my home!”

If my brother had explained his home like that, wouldn’t the man have been most surprised? He would have wanted to know WHO could make a home like THAT!



The Apollo 17 crew took this picture of the earth as they were traveling to the moon on December 7, 1972. This was the first photograph of the South polar ice cap. What else do you see in this picture? (NASA)

My brother would have said, “God made a home like that! He made it not with wood and nails, or bricks and mortar, but simply by speaking the earth into being. He spoke the words, ‘Let there be light. Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters’ (Genesis 1) and there was my home — EARTH!”

Earth is home to all people everywhere. And God made our home like no other home that has ever been made! Would you like a brief tour of our home?

If you do, that makes you a **geographer**! What is a geographer? Someone like you — someone who wants to explore our home, earth, to ask questions about what is under our feet and over our heads, to ask why some areas of our home look so very different from other areas,

and to meet all the different kinds of people who live in your home with you!

Geographers study **geography**. The word “geography” comes from the Greek language and simply means “to write about the earth.” So, together, let’s be geographers and write about God’s home for us, earth!

While your home has a front door, and maybe a back door, perhaps an upstairs or a downstairs, the home God made for us has no front or back, top or bottom. That is because our earth is like a big ball. Geographers (like you and me) refer to earth as a “sphere” because in Latin “**sphere**” means “ball.”

While I could see your home from the street, you can’t see the home God made for us by standing back a little. The home God made for us is much bigger than what you see outside your window, bigger than what is down your street, bigger even than what is across your country. The home God made for us is STUPENDOUSLY HUGE!! So huge, we can’t really see it all! That sounds strange, doesn’t it?

Have you ever laid your forehead against someone else’s forehead and looked into their eyes? What did they look like? They looked like ALL eyes, didn’t they? You were so close to their eyes that you didn’t even see their toes, did you? But what if you ran to the very far end of the street and looked back at the same person? Wouldn’t that same person who was once ALL eyes, now seem very small? You wouldn’t be able to see their eyes, or even their toes now. But now you could see the whole shape of the person.





When you look out your window and see our earth, that is much like looking eye to eye with another person. You are so close to earth, you can't see all the parts of our home. If you wanted to see more of our earth you would have to go further than the end of your street, further away from earth even than an airplane. You would have to go way, way, WAY back into outer space to see our home, earth, it is so big.

Just how big is earth? Are you ready for some VERY astounding numbers?

Let's say there was one flat path all around the world. Then say you stuck a flag in the dirt and began walking down that long path around our home of earth. If you walked ten long hours every day, you might cover slightly more than 22 miles (35 km) every day. If you did that every single day, rain or shine, until you walked back to your flag, you would have walked the 24,860 miles (39,990 km) all the way around earth! Not only is that one very long walk, but you would be almost 3 years older — and have worn out a LOT of shoes!!!

The surface area — how much area our earth takes up — is 196,951,000 square miles (316,894,000 km)! That means you would have to have 733 states of Texas to fill up this home God made for us!

Do you know how heavy our home is? The mass of earth is a whopping 6.6 billion trillion tons (6 trillion trillion kilograms)! That is how much 1,100 million, million, million elephants would weigh! Imagine the bathroom scale reading that ENORMOUS number!

God has made us a very impressive home, don't you think? To think that it was made simply by God's command! The Bible says that our world was not created through natural processes but

directly by God Himself: “...the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible” (Hebrews 11:3; NASB). That means that everything you see around you came into being from things that can’t be seen! Everything you see came into being by God’s words! And that was how our home called earth was made!



Memory Joggers

What a home we live in! Let's talk about our home of earth! ❶ What is the shape of our home? ❷ How many people live in this home? ❸ What do we call people who write about earth? ❹ Why is earth referred to as a "sphere"? ❺ Tell me about how big and massive our earth is. ❻ How did our home of earth come into being? **There truly is no place like our home!**

Adventure Challenge I

name _____

And This Is the Home that God Built!

Our earthly home is a pretty big place! It would be very easy to get lost. Do you know where in our home you are? Let's see if we can draw it out together so that we know more about the home God built for you!

Materials needed:

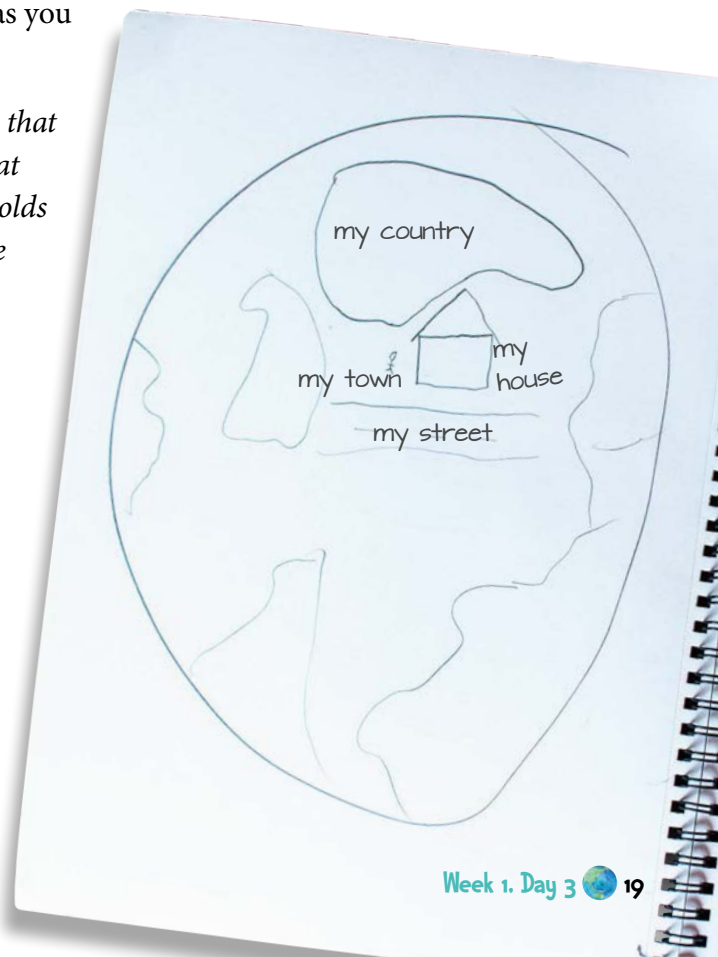
- Large piece of paper
- Pencil and crayons or colored pencils
- Globe or atlases

Ready to go? Let's head out!

1. Draw a **very small** picture of you in the middle of your piece of paper.
2. Now draw your house around you. Then draw your street. See if you can now draw a circle where your town is around your home.
3. Next, sketch out the shape of your state or province around your city. Are you beginning to see how big our home of earth really is?
4. Draw your country around your state or province. Then draw your continent around your country.
5. Now, draw the last part of your home around everything else . . . earth!

Can you point to the various features of your drawing as you sing along?

This is the earth that holds the continent, that holds the country, that holds the state, that holds the city, that holds the town, that holds the street, that holds the house, that is the home God built for me.



Take some time to write the names of your street, town, state, country, and continent down.

my street	
my town	
my state	
my country	
my continent	

Now, label your drawing. **Didn't God build an awe-inspiring home for us?**

Short Answer

1. What is geography? What do you call someone who wants to learn about geography?

2. What word do we use to describe the shape of our earth? What does this word mean?

3. Can you imagine the size of earth? What do you think of this home God built for us?



Expedition 60 Flight Engineer Christina Koch of NASA looks through the station's "window to the world," the seven-windowed cupola. Koch was photographing landmarks as the orbiting lab flew 259 miles above the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America. (NASA)

➔ I have never gone so far back, all the way to outer space in a rocket, and looked back at our home! Neither have you! (But maybe someday you will have such an incredible experience to gaze upon the beauty of earth from up in a space ship! For now, we must be satisfied with pictures.)

But there are men and women, called astronauts, who have flown some 370 miles (595 km) way up into the universe on a space craft. Pressing their faces against the windows of the space shuttle, they have peered down at our home, earth. How do you picture what our home looks like? Can you describe it?

An American Astronaut named Edgar Mitchell (below) described earth from space as "a sparkling blue and white jewel, a light, delicate sky-blue sphere laced with slowly

swirling veils of white, rising gradually like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery. It takes more than a moment to fully realize this is earth Home."

Isn't it strange that Astronaut Mitchell had lived his whole life in his home but when he saw it from space, he didn't quite recognize it at first? He had probably never thought of his home looking like a shimmering jewel in an ocean of blackness! Did you think our home looked like that?

A Saudi Arabian prince and astronaut, Sultan Bin Salmon Al-Saud, said this when looking down at our world from space, "The first day or so, we (astronauts) all pointed to our (different) countries. The third or fourth day, we were pointing to our continents. By the fifth day, we were aware of only one earth." Think of it — only one earth, one home for all of us.

Another American Astronaut described earth like "a Christmas tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got farther





The Black Marble:
Our Planet in
Brilliant Darkness
(NASA)

and farther away it diminished in size. Finally it shrank to the size of a marble, the most beautiful marble you can imagine. That beautiful, warm, living object looked so fragile. Seeing earth from space makes a man appreciate the creation of God and the love of God.”

Aren't you thankful someone made the house you live in? A place for you to play and read and come in for dinner, a place with clean clothes and a warm bed — a place for you. How much more thankful we are that God made our earth home! A place for us to breathe and run, discover and delight in — a place for all of us.

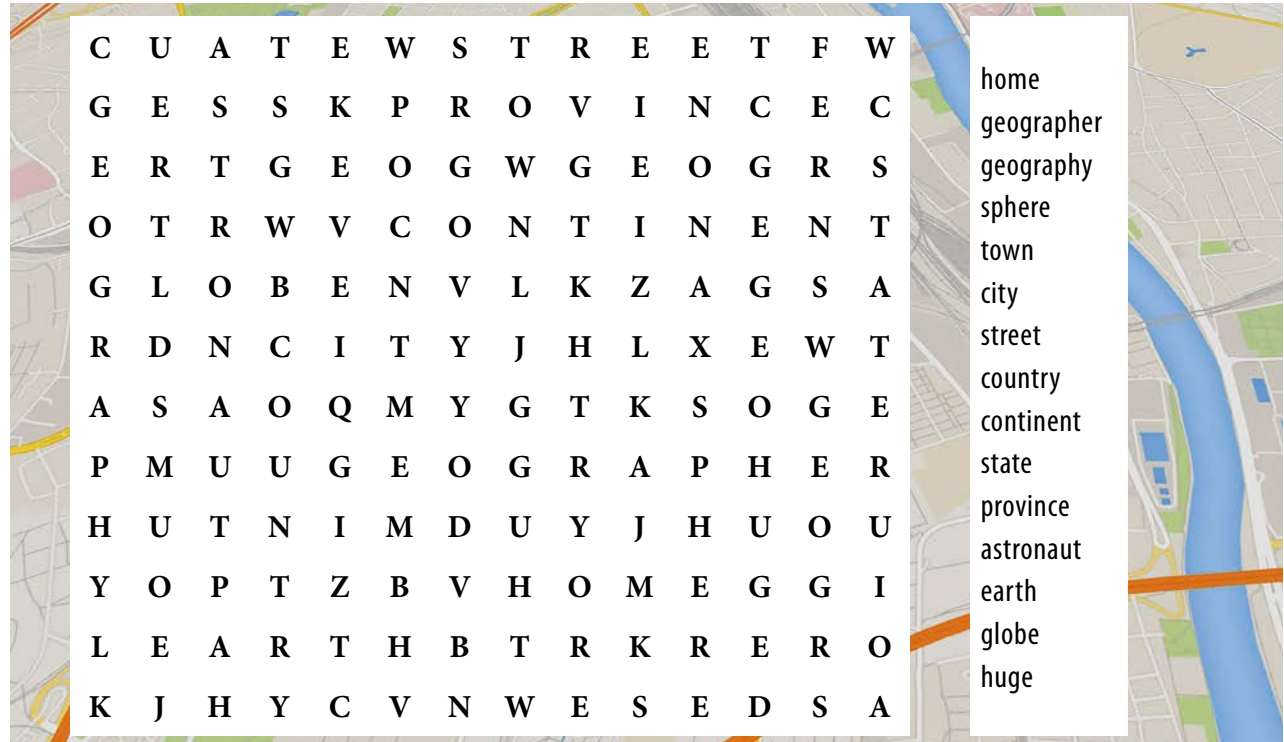
Memory Joggers

Wow! Our earth is very beautiful. Tell me all about it! ① What is an astronaut? ② What does earth look like from space? ③ How have some astronauts described earth? **Would you like to see earth from space someday?**

Adventure Challenge 2

name _____

Word Search



C	U	A	T	E	W	S	T	R	E	E	T	F	W	
G	E	S	S	K	P	R	O	V	I	N	C	E	C	
E	R	T	G	E	O	G	W	G	E	O	G	R	S	
O	T	R	W	V	C	O	N	T	I	N	E	N	T	
G	L	O	B	E	N	V	L	K	Z	A	G	S	A	
R	D	N	C	I	T	Y	J	H	L	X	E	W	T	
A	S	A	O	Q	M	Y	G	T	K	S	O	G	E	
P	M	U	U	G	E	O	G	R	A	P	H	E	R	
H	U	T	N	I	M	D	U	Y	J	H	U	O	U	
Y	O	P	T	Z	B	V	H	O	M	E	G	G	I	
L	E	A	R	T	H	B	T	R	K	R	E	R	O	
K	J	H	Y	C	V	N	W	E	S	E	D	S	A	

- home
- geographer
- geography
- sphere
- town
- city
- street
- country
- continent
- state
- province
- astronaut
- earth
- globe
- huge

Make Your Own Globe!

We could never make a world as magnificent or amazing as the world God has made for us! You could, however, make your own small copy of our globe. God made our grand and glorious world in six days — and it may take you nearly that long just to make a replica globe that you can hold in your hands. As you make your globe, think about how God made this entire planet of earth just by speaking it into existence! Doesn't that make you want to praise Him?

Materials needed:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Round balloon | <input type="checkbox"/> Spoon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lots of newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flour | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue and green paint |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint brushes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empty plastic container | <input type="checkbox"/> Marker |

Ready to go? Let's head out!

Remember, God did not need to gather materials when He made earth — He just spoke the word and things came into being. And that is truly awe-inspiring!

1. First, get out a saucepan and mix 1 cup of flour into 1 cup of water until the mixture is thin. Stir the mixture into 4 cups of boiling water. Simmer for just a few minutes, then cool.

2. Tear a newspaper into lots and lots of strips. The strips should be about as wide as the length of your thumb (or about 1 inch). The strips can be any length.
3. Now take a deep breath and blow up your balloon. Tie it tight!
4. Roll up your sleeves and get ready for the gooey part! Dip each strip of paper into your water and flour glue, wipe off the excess with your fingers, and wrap the strip around the balloon. Cover the whole balloon with wet strips of paper. Once you've coated the whole balloon, let your "globe" dry least 8 hours (or overnight). Repeat this process two more times for a total of three layers.
5. Once you have completed your three layers, let the globe dry completely. When your globe is completely dry, the balloon will usually pop by itself.
6. Now sharpen your pencil and pull out your atlases or place an already finished globe in front of you. Using a pencil, mark a dot at the top and bottom of the "globe" you just made. One dot will represent the North Pole; the other dot will represent the South Pole.
7. Can you draw on your globe the area of land you live in? That shape of land is called a continent. What shape is that area of land, your continent? How big is it in relation to the globe? How far away is it from your dots of the North and South Pole? Looking at your atlas or finished globe, draw your continent on your globe.
8. Good for you! Now, asking yourself the same questions, draw the other continents on your globe. Don't forget any!

Drawing continents is challenging, isn't it?
To think that God made the land itself by just commanding it to be so!



9. Now your globe needs some color! Lay out a bed of newspapers and paint each of your continents a dark green color to represent land. When you are finished, set your globe aside to dry.
10. God created water on the 2nd day of creation — so you need to now paint the rest of your small globe a brilliant sea blue! Again, lie out a bed of newspapers and paint around all of the green continents a watery blue to represent oceans and seas.
11. When the paint has dried, stand back and smile at your handmade globe! Can you take a marker and draw an x on the place where you live on earth?
12. Finally, write on your globe, "O Lord, it is You who made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them" (Acts 4:24).

Yes, God made this marvelous earth for us. And that should make us really smile!

Reaching Out to His World



Where do you sleep every night? Perhaps you have your own room, or share a room with a sibling. Maybe you even snuggle into the very same bed with a brother or sister. But perhaps you have a pillow somewhere that is just yours!

God made a home for each of us: earth! There are folks, however, who live in our grand home of earth but who don't have a place with a pillow just for them. We call these people homeless. Yes, homeless people do have a home: earth. Homeless folks, however, do not have a roof over their heads, a safe place to eat dinner every night, or a place of their own to lay down with a pillow each night. Some of those who have no place in the world to call home are children younger than you! It is estimated that more than 100 million children on our earth are homeless. Can you imagine a football stadium full of 55,000 children? Well, try to picture in your mind 1,818 stadiums, each full of a sea of only children, without adults. That gives you a picture in your mind of the vast number of children who have no place to come home to.



So where do homeless children spend their days and nights if they have no home with a roof or windows? Homeless children live on the streets of cities. They beg for their food or search through the garbage, looking for something edible. While some wrap themselves up in newspapers and sleep in back alleys, others are too often scared to sleep on the streets at night. Would you want to sleep out on the sidewalk in the dark? That is why many street children throughout the world fall asleep in big underground pipes underneath cities.

One boy, named Joby, who has slept for the last 9 years in the windowless, smelly pipes with many other children, said, "Everyone here would like to have their own family and home."

Yes, everyone would like their very own home, with a door and a window and someone to love them. God said, "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4). So God created us to take care of each other in our home we call earth.

🌍 Pray right now for the homeless and the street children — that they would feel the love of God in a very real way today. And pray for the organizations that work to help the homeless all around the world.

🌐 Does your church or another group in the community help the homeless? See if your family can find out what is needed and how you can help.



🌐 We all want a home to come home to. There are groups of individuals who build homes for the homeless. Habitat for Humanity is one such worldwide ministry. Over the last 30 years, volunteers have given freely of their time and money to help Habitat for Humanity build more than 175,000 homes for more than 750,000 people all over our earth. Perhaps you can look for a Habitat for Humanity or similar group near you and help support them to build a home someone can come home to!



He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

(a traditional African American spiritual originally written by Obie Philpo)

*He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.*

*He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.*

*He's got the sun and the rain in His hands,
He's got the moon and the stars in His hands,
He's got the wind and the clouds in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.*

*He's got the rivers and the mountains in His hands,
He's got the oceans and the seas in His hands,
He's got you and He's got me in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.*

*He's got everybody here in His hands,
He's got everybody there in His hands,
He's got everybody everywhere in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.*