



Another way to show...

## OUR LIMITED WATER RESOURCES

### Objectives:

1. To illustrate how limited the earth's fresh surface water is and begin a discussion of why we need to protect our water resources.
2. To increase awareness of how many ways we use surface water.

### Materials:

1 apple for every 2 students  
dull, plastic knives (1 per 2 students)

### Procedure:

Cut your apple into 4 equal pieces from top to bottom, and have students do the same. Set 3 of these pieces aside. These represent the 3 quarters of the earth that are covered with ocean. Mark them "OCEAN." The remaining quarter represents the land and all the freshwater on earth.

Cut the quarter into 2 equal pieces. One piece represents all the land that is too dry, too wet, too cold, or too hot for people. This is uninhabitable land -- mountains, deserts, icebergs. The other piece,  $1/8$  of all the earth's surface, is the land that is habitable by people. Cut this  $1/8$  piece into 4 pieces. Set aside 3 of these pieces. The remaining piece represents the portion of the habitable land in which we are able to grow food.

Take this piece which is  $1/32$  of the total earth's surface and cut off a very thin slice. This tiny slice represents  $3/100$  of 1% of the earth's surface. All of our lakes and rivers are included in this tiny area. Discuss the small size of this portion of the land, and why we must protect it -- we depend on it for drinking water, recreation, industrial uses.

### Discussion:

1. Ask students to list the ways we use surface water resources.
2. Which are the most important uses? Who should decide which uses are most important?
3. Is water used in the same way all around the world?