

3rd grade [http:// www.longman.com/ae/marketing/sfesl/tests/grade5.html](http://www.longman.com/ae/marketing/sfesl/tests/grade5.html)

Outer Space

by Meish Goldfish

From far out in space, Earth looks like a blue ball. Since water covers three-fourths of the Earth's surface, blue is the color we see most. The continents look brown, like small islands floating in the huge, blue sea. White clouds wrap around the Earth like a light blanket. The Earth is shaped like a sphere, or a ball. It is 25,000 miles around! It would take more than a year to stroll around the whole planet. A spaceship can fly around the widest part of the sphere in only 90 minutes.

Even though spaceships have traveled to the Moon, people cannot visit the Moon without special suits. The Moon has no air or water. Plants and animals can't live there either. Astronauts first landed on the Moon in 1969. After that, there were six more trips to the Moon. They brought back Moon rocks, which scientists are still studying. There are holes, or craters, all over the Moon's surface. Scientists believe that meteorites smashed into the Moon millions of years ago and formed the craters.

The Sun is the closest star to Earth. A star is a hot ball of burning gas. The Sun looks very big because it is so close. But the Sun is just a medium-sized star. Billions of far-away stars are much bigger than our Sun. The burning gases from the Sun are so hot that they warm the Earth from 93 million miles away! Even though the Sun is always glowing, the night here on Earth is dark. That's because the Earth rotates, or turns around, every 24 hours. During the day, the Earth faces the Sun. Then we see light. During the night, the Earth turns away from the Sun. Then it faces the darkness of space.

Each day we learn more about the Earth, the Moon, and the Sun.

1. Why is blue the color we see most when looking at Earth from outer space?
 - A. Because most of the Earth is covered in land.
 - B. Because the Sun's rays make the Earth look blue.
 - C. Because most of the Earth is covered in water.
 - D. Because clouds wrap around the Earth.

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