

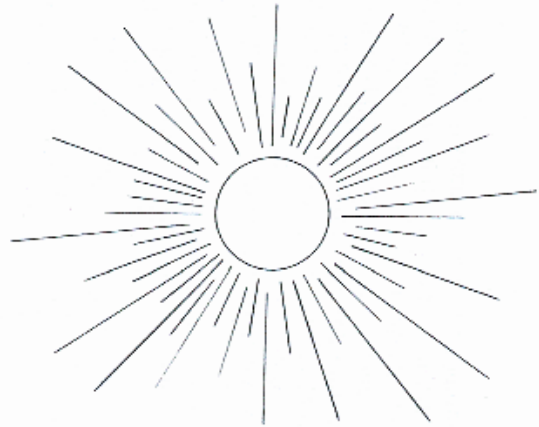
Mi 1 SUN

TRAITS: The sun is a dwarf, yellow star; a very dense ball of gases and dust.

OCCURRENCES: The sun is located in the center of our solar system, 93 million miles from planet Earth.

VALUES: Plants and other producers capture the energy in sunlight and, through photosynthesis, store it in the form of sugar. They use this “stored sunlight energy” to grow and reproduce.

“GEE WHIZ”: The amount of solar energy striking the earth every day is about 1.5 billion times greater than the amount of electricity generated each year in the United States.



Mi 2 AIR

TRAITS: Air is made up of several gases, including nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide.

OCCURRENCES: Air surrounds us, but we rarely notice it.

VALUES: The thin layer of air that blankets the earth provides oxygen and carbon dioxide, traps heat from the sun and blocks out high intensity light rays harmful to living things.

“GEE WHIZ”: The sky above us looks endless, but the earth’s atmosphere is actually very thin. On the scale of the earth the size of an apple, the atmosphere would be the same thickness as an apple skin.



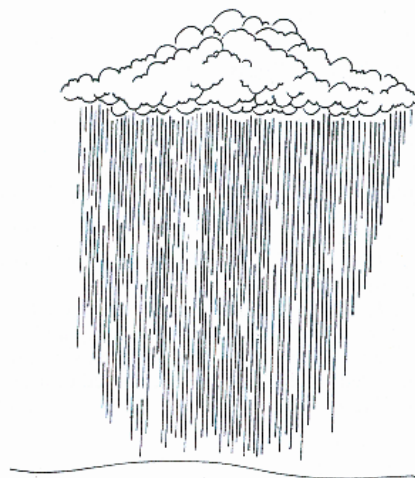
Mi 3 WATER

TRAITS: Water molecules are made up of two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen.

OCCURRENCE: Water occurs in the air as clouds, rain, and snow. It forms lakes, streams, rivers, and oceans; it is found underground in the water table.

VALUES: All living things need water for most life processes.

“GEE WHIZ”: Water cycles continuously from clouds to rain or snow on rivers, lakes and oceans, then back to clouds. Today we are using the same “recycled” water that dinosaurs used thousands of years ago.



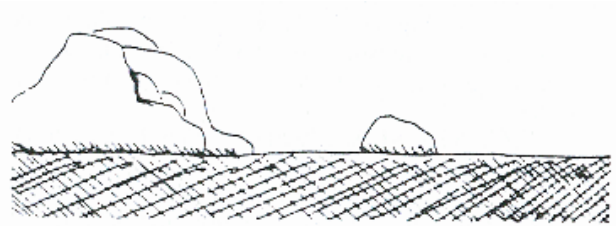
Mi 4 SOIL

TRAITS: Rocks are made up of elements and compounds. Wind and water erosion change rocks into fine sand and clay particles, the basis of soils. Some soils are enriched by nutrients from decomposed plants, animals and other living things.

OCCURRENCE: Much of the land on earth is covered by soil.

VALUES: Most plants require soil to grow. It provides them a place to anchor, and is their source for minerals and water.

“GEE WHIZ” A teaspoon of soil may contain 3-10 billion microscopic organisms.



Mi 5 AMOEBAS

TRAITS: Microscopic organisms that move and capture prey by “pseudopodia,” or flowing extensions of their bodies.

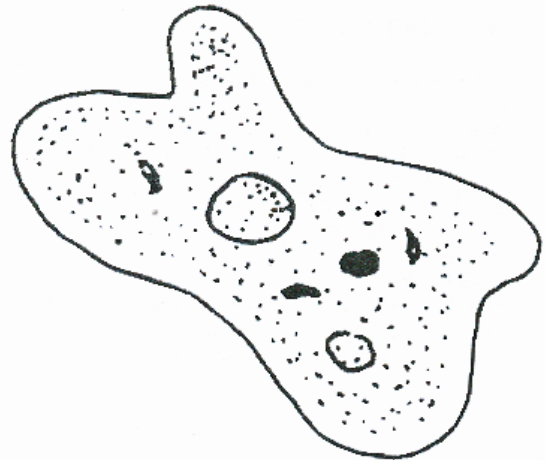
HABITATS: Amoebas occur in both freshwater and saltwater habitats.

FOODS: Amoebas prey on small organisms including other protozoans, bacteria, and algae.

EATEN BY: Other protozoans.

“GEE WHIZ”: Certain kinds of amoebas cause diseases in people, such as amoebic dysentery.

“Pseudopodia” means “false feet.”



Mi 6 BACTERIA

TRAITS: Single-celled microorganisms that have no chlorophyll and multiply by simple division. They occur in three main forms: round, rod-shaped or spiral.

HABITATS: Some types of bacteria occur in every moist environment.

FOODS: Mainly dead plants, fungi, and animal materials. Some kinds of bacteria live as parasites of living things. Some are able to make their own food.

EATEN BY: Protozoa, some fungi.

“GEE WHIZ” Bacteria are important in the development of soil including returning nutrients to the soil.



