

Water Apple Analogy

Pretend that an apple is planet Earth, round, beautiful, and full of good things. Notice its skin, hugging and protecting the surface. Water covers approximately 70% of its surface.

Right away, cut the apple into quarters. Toss one quarter (25%) away. This one quarter you just removed represents dry land. What is left (75%) represents how much of the earth is covered with water – oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams.

Remove the peel from one of the three remaining quarters. This represents 3% of water on earth that is freshwater. The remaining pieces represent the saltwater of the oceans.

Cut the peel into three equal pieces. Set two pieces aside. The remaining piece represents 1% of the freshwater not frozen in the polar ice caps (2%)

Of this remaining 1%, not all of it is potable – some is contaminated by pollution.

Questions to ask:

Is it reasonable to obtain water from other sources (salt water, ice caps)?

What can we do to conserve the freshwater we can access?

