

The Earth is round!

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Goal	Understanding the shape of the earth.
Age	4 upwards
Difficulty	Easy
Skills	Dialogue
Materials	A CD, a ball, a stick, small human characters, adhesive putty/paste
Pre-requisites	Having heard the expression "the earth is round"

Introduction

This activity is a fun questioning game and dialogue with children.

Scenario of the dialogue

The children are first asked if they have heard the expression "the earth is round". The idea is that they answer positively.

First show them a CD facing them and ask if it is round. The answer is yes.

Show it again, but holding it horizontally and asks again if this is round. The latter is flat.

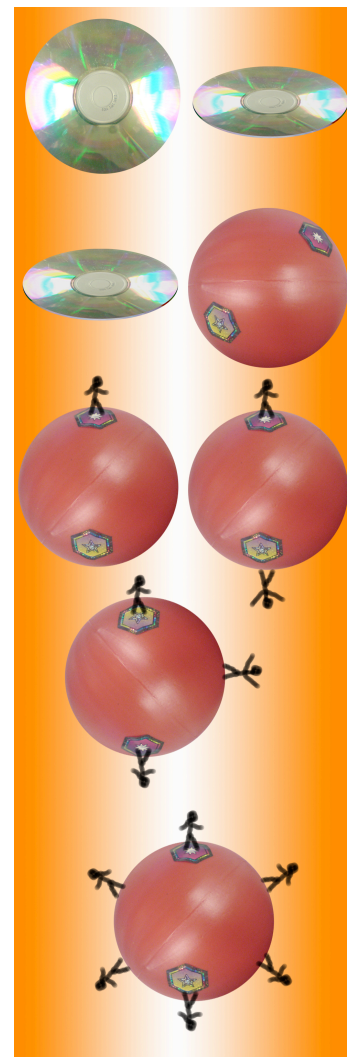
Show them the ball and make them realise that it is round whatever way it is looked at.

Take a small human character and ask the children where people live in the world, showing the ball as the world. Most likely the children will point at the top of the world.

Stick a small human character on the top of the ball so that the character stands up. Tell the children that this is the earth and that we live here.

Ask the children if they know of people who live very far away. If you have an earth globe or and Earthball, you can proceed by sticking more small characters on the countries the children mention.

If you don't have an earth globe but just a ball, ask the children if they know of far



The round shape of the Earth and the relativity of up and down.



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away countries. Knowing that other far-away countries are on the other side of the earth, ask the children how people stand there. Stick the small characters roughly where those countries would be (i.e. on the other side of the ball) with their feet on the ball and their heads pointing sideways or downwards.

As children laugh at the apparent impossibility of standing upside down, the far away country is put on top of and the question is asked again. Point out to the children that their home country has people standing with their heads down.

This can be done repeatedly with people standing on the sides, etc. and is an entertaining dialogue with the children where apparent contradictions and guesses are humorous.

Source: UNAWE India – AID India

