



**To: Subject Advisors**

**: Teachers**

**: Parents and Caregivers of Natural Science & Technology Learners**

**Topic:** The Earth and its rotations

**Message Objective(s):**

- To address misconceptions about the Earth
- To demonstrate the shape and structure of the Earth

One misconception amongst learners is that the Earth is flat. What makes it challenging to debunk this misconception is the fact that it is not easy to visualise a ball like Earth whilst we are living on a surface that appears flat!

Another misconception is that our children tend to think that even if the Earth is ball like, we are inside the ball and not on the surface of the ball.

Various explanations can be given to unlearn these misconceptions; however, we are encouraged to use models and visuals to demonstrate such abstract concepts.

**Activity**

Materials: Torch or candle, ball, or any spherical object such as a fruit e.g. an apple, pear or peach

- The spherical object will model the Earth whilst the light source will model the Sun
- Hold the two objects at a distance with the lit torch/candle illuminating the ball.
- Explain that we are living on the surface of the Earth, in this case the ball.
- Allow the learners to hold the ball and turn it on its axis and orbiting the light and explain that;

- The Earth travels in an orbit (pathway) around the Sun
- The Earth takes about 365 days to travel once around the Sun, this is called a year
- The Earth spins on its own axis
- The Earth takes about 24 hours to spin once, this is

The videos below will be helpful in further illustrating the shape and structure of the earth.

Thank you.

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Reference:

<https://nect.org.za/materials/natural-sciences-technology/term-4/content-videos/the-earth-and-its-layers-educational-video-for-kids.mp4>

<https://nect.org.za/materials/natural-sciences-technology/term-4/content-videos/earths-rotation-revolution-crash-course-kids-8-1.mp4>