



The World in an Apple

- Slice an apple representing the earth into quarters.
Set aside three of the quarters.
What do these three quarters represent ?
They represent the oceans.
- Take the remaining quarter.
Slice it in half.
Set aside one of the eighths.
What does this eighth represent ?
It represents the land which is inhospitable to people: the polar regions, the deserts, the swamps and the very high and rocky mountains.
- The remaining eighth is where people live.
Slice it into four pieces.
Set aside three of the 32^{nds}.
What do these three 32^{nds} represent ?
They represent the inhabited areas which are too rocky, too steep, too wet, too cold, or which have soil too poor to produce food. They also contain the cities, roads, car parks and shopping centres, etc., on which we are unable to grow food.
- Carefully peel the final 1/32 slice of earth.
What does the peel represent ?
This tiny sliver of peel represents the earth's top soil. It is less than five feet deep and we depend upon it for our food production. Due to overfarming and erosion, we lose 25 billion tons of topsoil each year. It takes 100 years for one inch of top soil to form

