



A Bird's-Eye View

Do you like to travel? Do you take pictures when you visit someplace new? If you were traveling in space, what pictures would you want? We have learned a lot about Earth from space travel. The pictures taken from space tell us about weather. They tell us about our **environment** and ocean **currents**.

Satellites are like eyes in space. They can take pictures of the earth. The pictures warn us of big storms. They also help experts check changing weather patterns. Satellites help us see how the planet is changing over time. The pictures show us how we are changing the planet. These changes are both good and bad.

⬇️ This illustration depicts a satellite above Earth.



⬆️ Sally Ride on the space shuttle *Challenger*.

An Astronaut's View

In 1983, Sally Ride became the first American woman to travel in space. She was 200 miles above the earth. She could see the atmosphere. Dr. Ride took pictures of our planet from the space shuttle.

Over the years, others have followed her lead. Astronauts have taken more than 350,000 color photos. They wanted people to look at their pictures. They hoped people could learn a lot about how Earth works from these pictures.

What Will the Weather Be Today?

Pictures from space are used every day to predict the weather. This is very helpful when big storms are on the way.



A Planet Under Pressure

Everything in a spaceship is connected. Astronauts cannot live without all of it. They need the air and food. They need the water and the protection of their spaceship.

The three parts of Earth are closely connected, too. The winds in the atmosphere control how the ocean currents move. The ocean currents move water around the world. The water then makes our weather change. If it rains too much or too little, this affects the people and animals living on land. So, if we do not take care of one part of Earth, such as the ocean, we are really hurting the entire planet.

↓ The ocean contains a great variety of life.



Did You Know?

The atmosphere is more than 150 kilometers (93 miles) thick. But most of the air is in the 42 kilometers (26 miles) closest to Earth.

The ocean is an important part of Earth. Yet many people think very little about it. Life on Earth would not exist without the ocean. Organisms living in the ocean give us a great deal of the oxygen that we breathe. Oceans hold 97 percent of the water on Earth. The ocean also takes in **carbon dioxide** made by humans. It gives us fresh water through clouds. Imagine if all that stopped happening. Life on Earth would disappear.

The sun keeps our spaceship running. →

