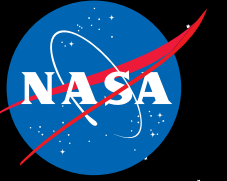


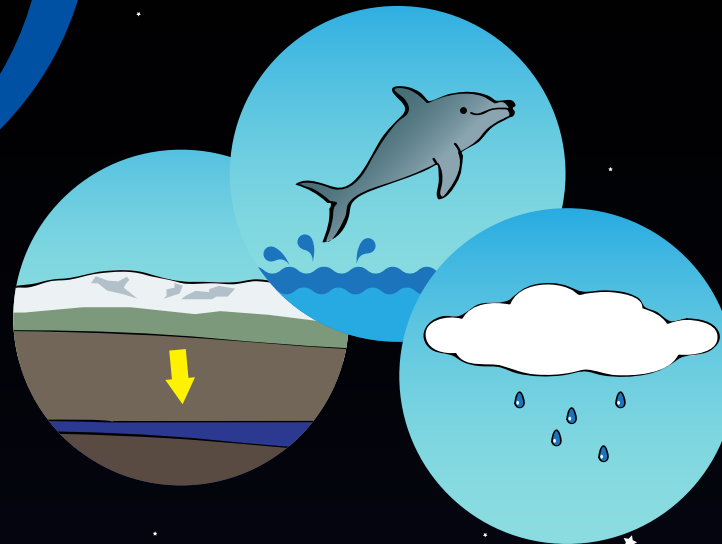
# How much water is on Earth?

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



Earth is special because it  
has so much water

It's in the ground, forms big  
oceans, and it's in our atmo-  
sphere.



It's also in living  
things. Your body is  
made up mostly of  
water.

Just 3.5% of the water on Earth is fresh water  
we can drink. And most of that fresh water,  
68%, is trapped in ice and glaciers.



**Na Cl**  
Sodium Chloride

Almost all of it —  
96.5% — is salt water.  
Salt water has differ-  
ent kinds of salt in it,  
but it mostly has  
sodium chloride; the  
same salt we add to  
our food.



**71%**  
**Water**

Water covers 71% of Earth's surface.

A third of the fresh  
water is in the  
ground. We call it  
groundwater.  
The last 2% of fresh  
water is in the rivers,  
lakes, and streams.

A very small amount is  
in our atmosphere,  
where it exists as water  
vapor. That's what  
clouds are made of.



If you took all the  
water on Earth and  
put it together it  
would be a ball 860  
miles wide.

**That's a lot of  
water!**