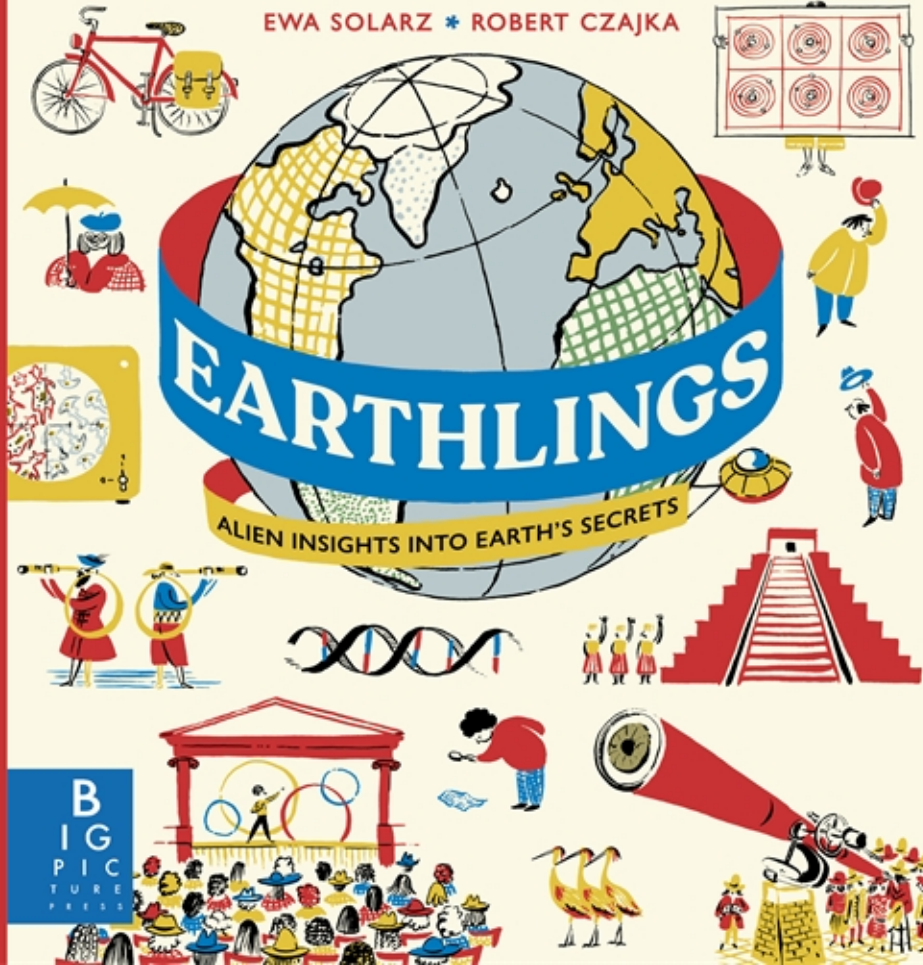




EWA SOLARZ \* ROBERT CZAJKA



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We hereby deliver this official report, translated into the earthly language of English. It was originally presented to the Supreme Interplanetary Council, made up of representatives of all species of intelligent life forms across the Cosmos. The commission has been collecting data on all signs of intelligent life in the Universe for many years.

This is the first-ever comprehensive study of Earthlings, inhabitants of the planet known as Earth. The report was compiled in precisely seven earthly seconds, on the basis of data published by the Earthlings themselves.

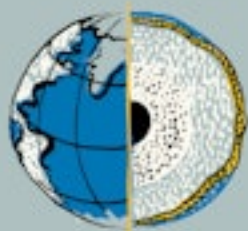
As we understand, following the publication of the report, the committee decided not to make direct contact with the Earthlings.

Due to a number of technicalities, this report offers only a limited selection of findings. We hope to provide further details in future works and share them with our readers.



# EARTHLINGS





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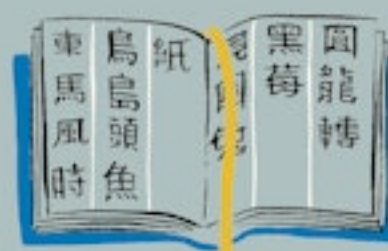
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*For Finnia, Janka, Jasiiek, Marysia, Marianka, Gaba and Miłosz.*

BIG PICTURE PRESS

First published in the UK in 2024 by Big Picture Press,  
an imprint of Bonnier Books UK,  
4th Floor, Victoria House  
Bloomsbury Square, London WC1B 4DA  
Owned by Bonnier Books  
Sveavägen 56, Stockholm, Sweden  
www.bonnierbooks.co.uk

Originally published in 2023 under the title *Zemnie*  
by Wydawnictwo Drukarnia Agata Loh-Agnieszka, Warsaw, Poland.

Text copyright © 2023 Ewa Solarz  
Illustration copyright © 2023 Opuscularia graficzne: Robert Czajka

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

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ISBN 978-1-80078-876-3

This book was typeset in Baskerville

Originally edited by Monika Krzyżowczyńska  
Originally designed by Opuscularia graficzne: Robert Czajka  
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Cover design by Jenny Hastings  
Production by Neil Randles

Printed in China



# EARTHLINGS

ALIEN INSIGHTS INTO EARTH'S SECRETS



EWA SOLARZ  
ROBERT CZAJKA

TRANSLATED BY AGNES MONOD-GAYRAUD



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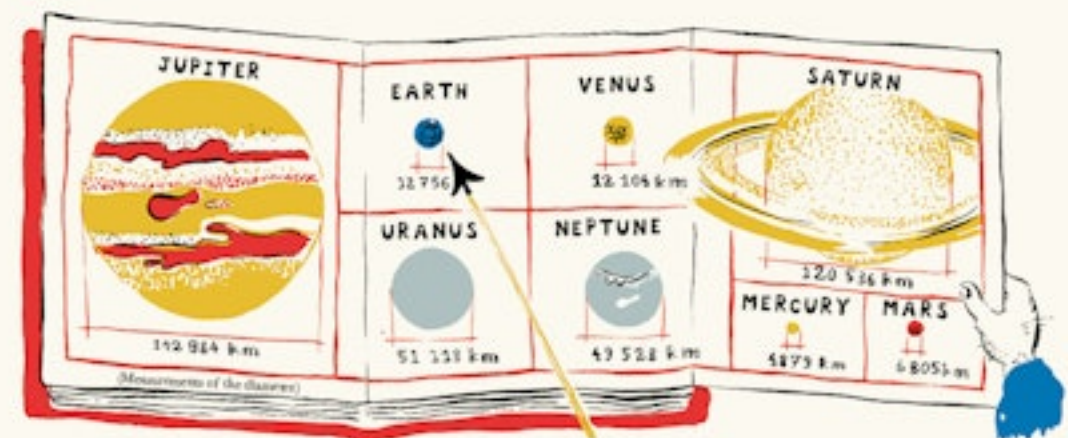


## PLANET EARTH

Earth is a rather ordinary planet located on the outskirts of the Universe. Its inhabitants, known as Earthlings, hold a deep belief that their planet is exceptional.



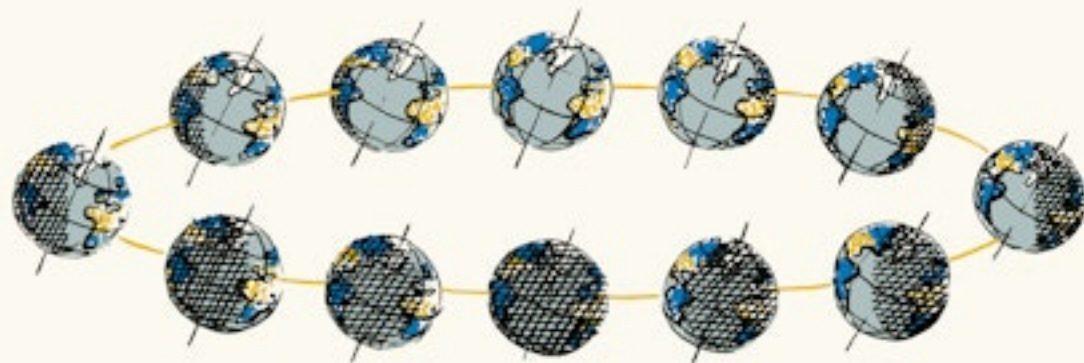
Earth is one of trillions of planets that exist in the Universe.  
It orbits around a star Earthlings call the Sun.



Earth isn't a particularly distinctive planet. It's one of the smaller bodies in its Solar System and is 11 times smaller than Jupiter.

There are billions of Earth-like planets in the Universe. They are similar in size to Earth and all orbit their own stars, in the same way Earth orbits the Sun.





The Earth takes about 365 days to go around the Sun – an Earthly year. It takes one day (24 hours) for the Earth to make one full rotation around its own axis.

When Earthlings talk about how old they are, they refer to the number of times the Earth has gone around the Sun in their lifetimes.

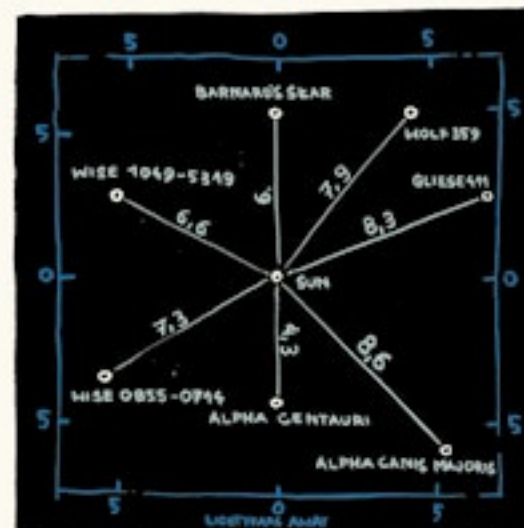


The Sun is 109 times bigger than Earth, but Earthlings see the Sun as a small sphere suspended above the horizon.



This is because the Earth is located 149,600,000 kilometres away from the Sun.

A full revolution of the Earth around the Sun takes 365 days, 5 hours and 49 minutes. To account for that 5 hours and 49 minutes, Earthlings add an extra day every four years to make a 'leap year' of 366 days.



The Solar System is 4.3 light years away from the next closest star system – Alpha Centauri. A light year is the unit used to measure distance based on the constant speed of light: 300,000 kilometres per second.



The Sun and its neighbouring stars make up the Milky Way galaxy. The Milky Way is made up of 400 billion stars. Its diameter measures about 100,000 light years across.



The Milky Way is one of two billion galaxies in the Universe.

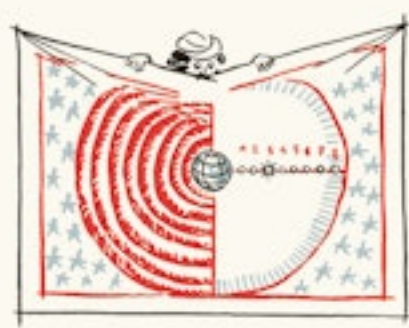


## EARTHLING ASTRONOMERS

Humans once believed that their planet was at the centre of the Universe and that all other celestial bodies revolved around it.



Thales of Miletus (624–547 BCE) proposed that the Earth resembled a flattened disc floating on the ocean, with the Moon, Sun and planets revolving around it.



Ptolemy (second century CE) believed the Earth was surrounded by eight transparent spheres that held up the celestial bodies circling around it.



According to Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543) the Sun was fixed at the centre of the Universe, with Earth and all the other planets revolving around it.



Giordano Bruno (1548–1600) determined that the Sun was just one of many stars – and that it wasn't at all the centre of the Universe. He believed that other stars (perhaps with their own inhabitants) host other planetary systems. He was burned at the stake for voicing these 'revolutionary' notions.



## FLAT EARTHERS

In spite of extensive astronomical research and evidence, not all Earthlings are convinced that the Earth is round. Some believe they are living on a flat disc surrounded by a wall of ice, with the North Pole at the centre of it.

## LAND AND WATER

Seen from space, Earth resembles a blue ball.



Despite its name, there's not all that much dry land on Earth. Most of the planet is covered in water.



Water covers 71 per cent of the Earth's surface while land covers the remaining 29 per cent of the planet.





Nearly all the water on Earth is salty. For every litre of fresh water on the planet, there are forty litres of salt water.



Nearly all the fresh water on Earth is either stored in glaciers or is deep below the Earth's surface. Only around one litre for every one hundred litres of fresh water is directly accessible to humans. This is known as 'surface water'.

Of all the water on Earth, 97.5% is salty. Of all the fresh water on the planet, 69% is locked in glaciers and 30% is stored as 'ground water', whereas 1% is accessible as 'surface water'.



Most Earthlings live on land, but they can also be found high above ground or on the water. They dive into the ocean or sail ships across it. Some even live in houseboats on rivers and canals. They also like to paraglide or fly around in aeroplanes...



Not all of the land on Earth is habitable. Mountains and deserts, for example, are not suitable for human life.



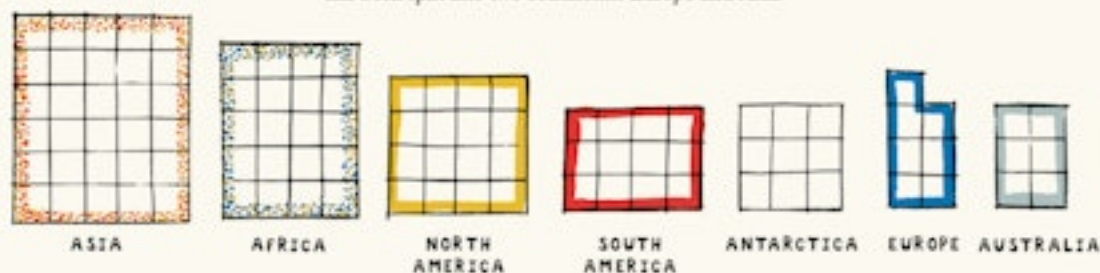
More than half of the land that is suitable for human dwelling has been turned into fields for farming and pastures for grazing. Forests cover about one-third of the land. Earthling cities make up just one per cent of the planet's land surface.

43% of the Earth's land is suitable for life, 24% is covered in mountains and 33% is made up of deserts. 77% of fertile land is used for grazing animals, while 23% is used for agriculture. Every year, Earthlings cut down ten million hectares of forest.





Earth's land surface is split up into continents. The largest piece of land – Eurasia – has been split into two continents: Europe and Asia.



The largest of all the continents on Earth is Asia and the smallest is Australia.



Earthlings inhabit six of the seven continents. The greatest number of people live in Asia, while Australia has the least number of people. Antarctica has no people at all.

59% of Earthlings live in Asia, 18% in Africa, 9% in Europe, 8% in North America, 5.5% in South America, 0.5% in Australia and Oceania. Finally, 0% of them come from Antarctica.



The harsh conditions on Antarctica have prevented humans from settling here. This part of the planet only hosts research scientists: approximately 1,100 in the winter and 4,400 in summer.



Some places on Earth are uninhabited, meaning that no Earthlings live there at all. There are also places that are full of Earthlings. The average population density on Earth is 62 Earthlings per square kilometre.



Earthling maps don't display the actual scale of the continents or countries. This is because it is impossible to project the three-dimensional structure of the globe onto a flat surface without distorting its proportions. The regions of Earth that are closest to the Poles are most affected by such distortions and end up appearing larger than they really are. This is why maps will show Africa to be approximately the same size as Greenland, even though it is actually 14 times bigger.



From the time of Gerard Mercator – a Flemish cartographer of the sixteenth century – most maps of Earth have north at the top. This wasn't always the case, however. In ancient Egypt, the northern region of the world was situated to the east. Islamic maps, published even earlier, had the south on

top because Mecca was believed to be the origin of civilisation. So when cartographers were looking towards Mecca, they assumed they were looking up. Christian maps, however, would have the east at the top, as this is where they believed the Garden of Eden would have been.



## LIFE ON EARTH

Humans tend to think that they control life on Earth, but really they are just a part of nature.



In the early days of life on Earth, living creatures only inhabited the water. Eventually, microbes appeared on land, followed by lichen, moss, fungi and plants.



Around 375 million years ago, prehistoric fish came out of the water and began evolving into land animals known as vertebrates, which eventually evolved into human beings.



### EARTH'S BIOMASS

Earth is a green planet. For every kilogram of human mass, there are 8,200 kilograms of plants and 1,300 kilograms of bacteria.

Earthlings make up barely 0.01% of Earth's biomass, i.e. 60 million tonnes; plants make up 82%, i.e. 450 billion tonnes; bacteria 13%; fungi 2%; and all other living things 3%.



All the people in the world put together weigh less than all the mushrooms on Earth ...



... seventeen times less than all the insects, arachnids and crustaceans ...



... twelve times less than all the fish ...



... and three times less than all the viruses.



### ANIMALS

Earthlings tend to avoid wild animals and are typically more familiar with mammals that have been domesticated. This is the result of thousands of years of hunting animals and settling on their natural habitats.

63% of mammals have been domesticated by human beings (cows, pigs, goats, sheep), while 34% of mammals are human beings and only 3% are wild animals. Every day, up to 150 animal species go extinct.





Seven out of ten bird species on Earth today have been domesticated and live on farms.



Earthlings raise about 26 billion chickens on their farms. This adds up to just over three chickens for every Earthling.



#### PRODUCTION

In 2013, all the goods produced by humans weighed exactly the same as all the biomass naturally found on Earth. Goods produced by humans commonly include materials like cement, plastic, asphalt, metal, glass and rubbish.

In 2022 there was a whole kilogram of concrete produced per square metre of the planet. If the pace of production stays the same, by 2040 the total mass of goods made by Earthlings will exceed the planet's natural biomass.

## HOMO SAPIENS

Earthlings are representatives of a species of human beings known as *Homo sapiens*, which is Latin for 'wise human'. But what distinguishes this species from other earthly creatures?



Most Earthlings tend to get around upright on two legs.



Most creatures are able to run much faster than an average Earthling. After all, it's easier to get around on four legs than two.



However, Earthlings are unsurpassed when it comes to long distances. They can even outrun a horse on an especially long distance.

The top speed achieved by a leopard is 120km/h, a gazelle 94km/h, hare 72km/h, cat 48km/h, elephant 40km/h, chimpanzee 40km/h, human being 20km/h, chicken 14km/h and mouse 13km/h. The fastest human on Earth is Usain Bolt, who holds the record for speed at 44km/h.





Earthlings don't have a thick skin or layer of fur to protect their bodies.



However, they make clothes to keep themselves warm in cold weather and their bodies produce sweat to keep them cool in hot weather.



Earthlings don't have tails, claws or hooves.

The skin of a hippo is 5cm thick. A porcupine has 30,000 quills. A muskox has the longest fur of any animal. An otter's fur is 1,000 times thicker than the hair on an average human head.



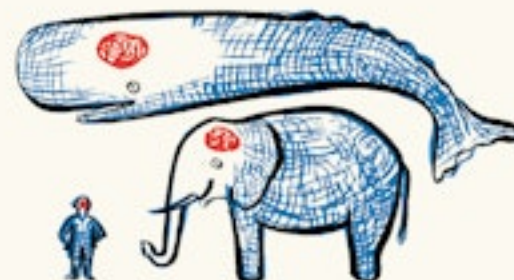
Earthling hands, however, are just right for working with tools.



Earthlings don't have sharp teeth like bears do.



They have, however, learned to make fire. A cooked meal is easier to chew and digest than raw foods.



Earthlings don't have the heaviest or even the largest brains.



But they have managed to make it all the way to the Moon.



Even though they may appear rather weak and their muscles are small compared to other mammals, human beings are in fact the most dangerous predators on Earth.

The human brain weighs 1.3kg, elephant brain 5.5kg, sperm whale 8kg. The brain of a human being makes up 2% of their body mass, while the brain of a shrew makes up a whole 2.7%.



## EARTHLING ANATOMY



While there are many individual differences, an average human being is made up of six basic parts: a head, a torso, two arms and two legs.



On the inside, humans are made up of 206 bones, 650 muscles, more than 100,000 blood vessels and lots of organs that work hard to keep them alive.



Just like other animals, as well as plants and bacteria, a human being is made up almost entirely of four essential elements: oxygen, carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen.

Earthlings are born with 270 bones, but over time, some of them fuse together. The average human being on Earth contains 43kg of oxygen, 16kg of carbon, 7kg of hydrogen, nearly 2kg of nitrogen and 3kg of another 51 elements.



The body of an Earthling can appear symmetrical. In other words, the left side looks like a mirror image of the right side. But if we take a closer look, we will find differences between the two sides.



Typically, a human stomach lies on the left side, while the liver and gallbladder are on the right. The heart is found more or less in the middle.



The left side of an Earthling's face is typically thought to have a more friendly expression than the right. This is why some people make sure to show their left profile when posing for pictures.



### TEETH

Earthlings change their teeth just once in their lifetime. The first set is made up of 20 teeth, known as milk teeth, which appear in childhood. Earthlings end up with a maximum of 32 permanent adult teeth. Compare this with a whale shark's mouth, which contains about 3,000 teeth. A snail has more than 25,000 teeth!





#### A WATERY BODY

Nearly half the human body is made up of water. The younger and more muscular an Earthling is, the more water their body will retain. Women tend to have less water than men, while older Earthlings are much less watery than little ones.



Earthling blood and sweat are made up of water, but so are their teeth and bones.



A full-grown Earthling loses about 12 cups of water each day by urinating (weeing), sweating, panting and defecating (pooping). This is why it's necessary for humans to stay hydrated – by eating regular meals and drinking plenty of water.



#### BUILDING BLOCKS

All living things on Earth, including human beings, are made up of cells. Less than half the cells inside a typical human body are actually human. The majority of them are microbes: bacteria, viruses and fungi.

These tiny organisms are essential to the proper functioning of an Earthling body.

For every 30 trillion (30,000,000,000,000) cells in a human body, there are 39 trillion microbe cells. But since they are so tiny, microbes only make up between 1% to 3% of the total body mass.



All living cells, including those that make up the human body, contain DNA. It acts as a sort of instructional code that dictates the overall structure and functioning of every organism on Earth.



All human DNA is nearly identical. There are minute differences that determine specific features such as facial structure as well as skin, eye and hair colour, and hair texture.



Identical (one-cell) twins share the same DNA. This is why they look almost the same.



All living organisms on Earth share the same ancestor. Human DNA shares a few identical fragments of the DNA of many animals and plants. Humans and chimps have nearly 99 per cent of their DNA in common, while humans share 50 per cent of their DNA with bananas.

Every human being shares about 99.9% of their DNA with other human beings. Humans share 99% of their DNA with chimps, 98% with gorillas, 90% with cats, 88% with elephants, 85% with dogs, 70% with mice, 70% with zebrafish, 50% with bananas, 45% with cabbage and 23% with yeast.



## EARTHLING RESILIENCE

Earthlings are rather fragile beings. They can't survive without oxygen, water, food or sleep. And they require just the right temperature to function.



The average human being can't survive more than three minutes without oxygen. A beaver can go 15 minutes, a naked mole rat 18 minutes and a sperm whale 90 minutes.



Without access to water, a human would only live about three days – much less than a camel, which can go 14 days without drinking. Giraffes can go without water for 21 days.



If a human has access to drinking water, they can survive up to 21 days without any food. Bears can live 90 days without eating and crocodiles can last 1,095 whole days.

By the time an Earthling feels thirsty, their body has already lost about 1% of the necessary volume of water. When they have lost 2% of that volume, normal brain function declines; 10% leads to physical incapacity and more than 20% water loss will lead to death.



The normal body temperature of a healthy human being is 36.6°C. A temperature above 42°C or lower than 20°C is dangerous and could be lethal.



Arctic ground squirrels are able to endure freezing temperatures. They can even survive a drop in body temperature all the way down to an icy -3°C.



A wet Earthling loses body heat 25 times faster than a dry Earthling.



Sea mammals like whales and seals are able to maintain a body temperature of 37°C even in -2°C waters.



Earthlings can't survive without regular sleep. An adult human needs an average of eight hours of sleep per day. In the animal world, koala bears tend to snooze for about 22 hours out of a 24-hour day, brown bats for about 20 hours and snakes for 18 hours. Giraffes get the least sleep, with only two hours of shut-eye per day.



### RECORD-BREAKING RESILIENCE

Certain Earthlings demonstrate an exceptional degree of human resilience. Their awesome achievements are inscribed into the Guinness Book of World Records. Their nature-defying tricks include enduring 24 minutes without breathing, 18 days without water, 382 days without food (drinking only tea and coffee) and 11 days without sleep. But the majority of Earthlings aren't able to survive such unnatural experiments.



## EARTHLING GENDERS

Certain animal species end up with slightly more males than females – or vice versa. Among humans, there are approximately just as many male and female babies born.



A newly born Earthling is determined to be either a male or female at birth based on their physical appearance. However, an Earthling's gender identity is separate from their biology, and can change during their lifetime.



Differences among male and female Earthlings become more pronounced as they grow into adults. On average, men are known to have more muscle mass than women.



Women tend to be a bit less hairy and their voices are higher in pitch. Their hearts also beat just a bit faster.



Along with bigger noses, men also tend to have a thicker layer of skin covering their bodies.



Women tend to get sick less often than men and live longer lives. They're known to be more physically and psychologically resilient. Women also have a better sense of taste and smell.



For every 100 girls born on Earth, there are 105 boys. Over the age of 50, there tend to be more women than men and for those who reach the ripe old age of 100, there are a mere 24 men for every 100 women. While there may be variations depending on the specific region or country on Earth, there's nearly an equal number of men and women overall.



### GENDER FLUID

Gender was created by humans to describe how they think men and women are supposed to act. But not all Earthlings fall neatly into the category of male or female. There are people who are non-binary or gender non-conforming. In other words, they don't identify with either gender.



### EARTHLING PATRIARCHIES

Earthling history has demonstrated that men often have the most power in society. For certain periods in time and in different areas of the world, women haven't been allowed to attend school or earn money by working. There are still places on Earth where women don't have equal rights.

Women in the Earthling workforce typically earn 37% less than their male counterparts. They also face more challenges in getting promotions. At the same time, working women still end up doing 76% of the housework. Moreover, only 26.5% of government officials are women and only 8% of Earth's heads of state are women.

In the animal world, females are typically larger than males, but among mammals (including humans) the opposite is true. For instance, a man's nose is on average 10% larger than a woman's. Such differences become more apparent after the age of 11.



## RELATIONSHIPS

The majority of Earthlings end up in some sort of coupling at some point in their lives. Overall, eight out of ten adults end up having some kind of relationship during their lifetime.



For thousands of years, Earthlings have continued to extend their families through such couplings. The most common relationship among humans is among one male and one female (heterosexual), although there are many relationships between two men or two women (homosexual).



Earthlings tend to live in pairs and such a long-term relationship between two people is referred to as monogamy. Yet most mammals tend to have multiple partners at a time, as do most reptiles and fish, for example. On the other hand, certain insects and birds can be monogamous for life.

Among humans, 41% of first marriages end in divorce (after about eight years, on average). Divorce is also common in second marriages (60%) and third marriages (73%).



When more than two people are involved in a relationship, it is referred to as polygamy. The practice of one man being married to more than one woman is called polygyny, while polyandry refers to marriage between one woman and many men.



Polyandry is quite rare among earthly species. It is most common in the kingdoms of bees and ants, where a single queen tends to mate with a large number of males.



More than half of Earthling relationships are arranged by family members, usually parents. In India, for example, the majority of marriages are arranged. In some cases, a couple's first meeting is at the wedding altar.

2% of Earthlings live in polygamous relationships and such arrangements are legal in 58 countries. The practice is most popular in Burkina Faso (96% of inhabitants), Mali (34%) and Nigeria (28%). When it comes to marriage, 60% of couplings are arranged by family members, with India dominating the charts with 90% of all marriages coordinated by their elders.



## OFFSPRING

Like all other living creatures on the planet, Earthlings reproduce and have children.



Today, an Earthling woman will give birth to an average of 2.5 children. This is the lowest birth rate in the history of humanity. Even 50 years ago, the average woman would have had at least five children and some even had as many as seven!



Humans (and other mammals) reproduce when a male sperm cell is joined with a female's egg cell. An Earthling woman will then carry the developing fetus in her body for about nine months. This is known as pregnancy. Among mammals, elephants tend to have the longest pregnancies (22 months), while opossums carry their young for only half a month. In places where young animals roam, pregnancy lasts longer and their offspring are born ready to run. Mammals who live below ground or in other kinds of shelters have shorter pregnancies and care for their young until they are strong enough to be independent.

In wealthier countries, people tend to have fewer children. The lowest number of children are born in Europe, with an average of 1.5 children per adult woman. Women in Africa tend to have the most children, with 4.2 births per woman. Nigerians are at the top of the charts, with 6.9 children per woman, and Somalians, with 6 children per woman. North Koreans have the lowest birth rates, with 0.8 children per woman.



The record holder for birthing the largest number of children is a woman who lived in Russia in the eighteenth century. According to reports, she gave birth 27 times, producing a total of 69 children. She had twins sixteen times, triplets seven times and quadruplets four times.



Among mammals, the most fertile females include the European hare (birthing up to 360 young over a lifetime). Orangutans give birth to the fewest number of offspring, with a maximum of three.



A newborn human is completely helpless and depends on their parents or guardians to keep them alive. A typical Earthling baby weighs 22 times less than their mother.

Female Earthlings are waiting longer to have children than they did in the past. An average woman today will have her first child at 29 years of age. According to scientists, an Earthling can give birth to a maximum of 15-30 children in their lifetime.



According to human historians, the human male with the most offspring was the Mongolian ruler known as Genghis Khan. He fathered over a thousand children. Calculations suggest that 16 million Earthlings roaming the planet today are his descendants.



The biggest babies on Earth are born to giraffe mothers. These newborns are only ten times smaller than a fully grown adult. While giraffes might be the tallest creatures on the planet, they give birth standing up, so their offspring have to be strong enough to endure a two-metre-high drop at birth.





Kangaroo babies are the smallest of all newborn mammals. They are 100,000 times smaller than their parents. A kangaroo joey weighs no more than a single gram and is only two centimetres long. That is why a kangaroo mother carries her babies in a pouch on her stomach until they are mature enough to explore on their own.



Traditionally, Earthling babies are raised by their biological parents, sometimes with the help of extended family, including the grandparents. Some Earthlings care for and raise children who cannot stay with their biological parents, through adoption or foster care, which is another way that Earthlings form families.

When it comes to other species on Earth, fathers often play no role at all in their offspring's upbringing and the whole burden is shouldered by the mother. One exception is fish, where both parents tend to abandon their young as soon as the eggs hatch. However, in certain instances, some fish fathers do take sole care of their babies. In the bird world, both parents tend to care for their young in equal measure.



Human children tend to remain in the care of their parents for a relatively long time. The average Earthling lives with their parents for 27 years before moving into their own home.

Young women tend to leave home sooner than their male counterparts. Swedes move out of their parents' homes the soonest – usually when they are 19 years old.

## SKIN

Earthlings tend to share the same basic anatomy. However, human skin comes in many different shades ranging from black and brown to white.

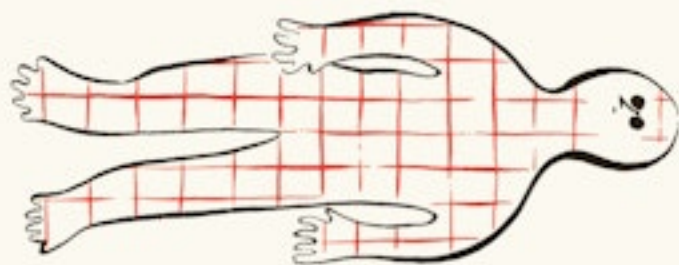


The colour of an Earthling's skin is determined by a pigment called melanin. Its purpose is to protect the human body from the damaging effects of solar rays in areas of the world where there is more exposure to the Sun. Melanin plays an important role in shielding Earthlings from the Sun's harmful ultra violet rays. The more melanin in the skin, the more

protection it offers. Darker skin tones have more melanin than lighter ones, meaning they're better protected from the Sun. However, melanin does not fully protect Earthlings, so they wear a product called sun cream on their skin, which offers an extra layer of protection from the Sun's rays.

Melanin is produced by special cells in the epidermis (outer layer) of the skin, called melanocytes. Every Earthling has the same number of melanocytes in their skin, but with different volumes of melanin production. Some Earthlings have clusters of extra melanin in their skin, which appear as freckles on the face or body.





The largest organ in the human body is the skin. The average human is covered in two square metres of skin, which weighs a total of nine kilograms.



Some earthly creatures are able to change the colour and pattern of their skin, most often to camouflage themselves to match their surroundings. The skin of an Earthling may change as the result of sun or frost exposure, physical exertion or emotions (such as embarrassment or excitement).



People who are born with no pigment (melanin) in their skin are called albino. The largest number of albino Earthlings live in Africa.



At certain points in history, humans have devised unscientific theories about skin colour, which made the erroneous assumption that certain 'races' are superior to others. For instance, supporters of 'white supremacy' believe that people with lighter skin are inherently 'better' than those with darker complexions. Such racist assumptions offered certain groups of Earthlings a theoretical basis for cruel practices such as colonialism and slavery.

From the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries, over 12.5 million Africans were enslaved and brought to the Americas by force to provide free labour for colonial settlers.



Some Earthlings embellish their bodies with adornments like tattoos. These are symbols and images permanently imprinted onto the skin. The practice of tattoo art has been around for thousands of years. In some cultures, tattoos are a symbol of a higher rank or elite power, while in others, its function was the opposite, as in the case of pirates. Historically, prisoners or enslaved people were branded with tattoos to mark their status. Today, people from all walks of life sport tattoos and nearly half of all humans on Earth have at least one tattoo.



The earliest Earthlings are said to have appeared in Africa. Since they were covered in hair, their light skin was protected from the Sun. When humans gradually lost their body hair through the process of evolution, they became more susceptible to the damaging rays of the Sun. Human skin evolved to develop melanin in response to this danger. As humans began to migrate to the northern hemisphere, their skin began to adapt to the varying intensity of solar

rays in that region. Humans who migrated north ended up developing less melanin over time, as this pigment interferes with the absorption of the vitamin D3, which is essential to human health. Earthlings began to evolve less pigmented skin tones, as well as lighter hair (red or blond) and eyes (blue or green). The colour of an individual Earthling's skin today depends on where their ancestors came from and where they reside – in the hotter southern hemisphere or the cooler north.

48% of Italians, 47% of Swedes and 46% of Americans sport at least one tattoo somewhere on their bodies. Of those people, 70% have at least two tattoos or more. In some cultures or religious faiths, tattoos are forbidden.



## EYES

The eyes are the most complex organ in the human body after the brain.



Most of the information that travels to the human brain takes the form of an image. Earthlings are better at remembering something when they are able to see it with their own eyes, compared to hearing or reading about it.



90% of the information relayed to the human brain takes the form of an image. The brain processes images 60,000 times faster than written text. Research has shown that humans remember 80% of what they see, followed by 20% of what they read and 10% of what they hear.



One in four Earthlings has some kind of vision impairment. After the age of 47, most people require glasses to sharpen their vision, for instance, when reading. Young Earthlings who spend too much time looking at screens also tend to develop worse vision.



The average Earthling can see a million individual colours and hues. At the same time, no two Earthlings see the colours in exactly the same way.

At least two out of every hundred women are able to distinguish 100 million different colours. That's 100 times more colours than the average person.

Eight out of every hundred men are colour-blind. Colour blindness is where people see colours differently, and have difficulty telling colours apart.

12% of women carry a gene that allows them to distinguish 100 million different colours. This ability is referred to as tetrachromacy. 8% of all men are colour-blind, while this affects only 0.5% of women.





Across a spectrum of light to dark, most Earthlings have brown eyes. Green eyes are rarer, seen in only two in every hundred humans.



Some people have eyes that are different colours. Known as heterochromia, this is also common among a breed of dog called Huskies and Persian cats.



Historically, pirates believed that wearing earrings made out of pure gold helped improve their vision.



An ancient group of people known as the Mayans believed that people with crossed eyes (strabismus) were happier and more attractive. So Mayan mothers often tried to encourage a cross-eyed gaze in their children by hanging toys just above their line of sight, causing the eyeballs to turn inwards.



#### FOUR EYES AND MORE

Some animals can be equipped with multiple eyes. Spiders and scorpions may sport four, five, even six pairs of eyes. Sea scallops are covered in as many as a hundred tiny blue eyes. A praying mantis has an odd number of eyes: a larger pair and three more smaller eyes in between – making a grand total of five.



Having two eyes gives humans the ability to better assess distance and depth as the brain can compare the two images coming from each individual line of sight. Earthly mythologies include tales of divine figures who have an extra eyeball (or more). The Hindu god Shiva has a third eye in the middle of his forehead.

Argos, the Greek giant, had as many as a hundred eyeballs. The record holder is Azrael, the angel of death from Islamic mythology, with four faces, 4,000 wings, 70,000 feet and a body covered in eyes and tongues – their number corresponding to the number of people alive on Earth.

Most humans only have two eyes. The third eye (i.e. parietal eye) that once adorned the heads of some species of prehistoric animals can still be seen among certain reptiles. Some other reptiles, birds and mammals have an empty socket that is a remnant of this primitive third eye.



#### EYE ANATOMY

An Earthling's eyeball is round like a marble. Only part of the eyeball is visible, since the rest is hidden inside the head.

89% of humans have dark brown eyes, 10% light brown, 8% blue and 2% green. The visible part of the eyeball makes up 17% of the whole structure.



#### LOOK OF LOVE

When an Earthling sees someone they care about, their pupils (the black spot in the middle of the coloured iris) expands.



## HAIR

Earthlings can have hair on their heads and all over their bodies.



While it may not be apparent at first glance, Earthlings have as much hair on their bodies as their closest mammalian cousins – chimps! The number of individual hairs is approximately five million. So why do Earthlings look so bare? Well, most of these hairs are much thinner and not as conspicuous.



Earthlings grow hair everywhere, even on their elbows, forehead and ears. The only hairless spots on the human body are the lips, palms of the hands and soles of the feet.



The longest and strongest hair grows on the head. An Earthling's eyelashes and eyebrows are usually quite visible as well.

Earthlings with blond hair have about 15,000 hairs on their heads, redheads have about 90,000, brunettes have between 100–110,000. A typical Earthling has about 150 eyelashes on top and 75 at the bottom. One eyebrow is made up of some 250 individual hairs.



Adult Earthlings can also grow moustaches and beards. They also have hair in their armpits and other areas.



Men's bodies are usually hairier than women's. Some men might have hair covering their arms, legs, backs and bellies, but some might have very little hair.



Earthlings all have different degrees of hairiness. Also, children and the elderly have hair that's softer and thinner than middle-aged adults.



Human hair grows constantly throughout a person's life, at the speed of about a centimetre per month. It would take an Earthling close to six years to grow their hair past their waist.



### SHADES AND HUES

The most common colour you might see on a human head is black or brown. Blond hair is much less common and red hair is even rarer.

Blonds make up 2% of the human population, with 45% of blonds living in Europe – most often in the northern Baltic states. For instance, 80% of Finnish people have blond hair. Redheads make up only 1% and most of them live in Western Europe – mostly in Ireland (10% of the local population) and Scotland (9%).





Over time, the pigment in a human's hair starts to dissipate and turn grey or white when they reach old age. Sometimes, Earthlings can go grey earlier – even in childhood. This may happen as a result of sudden fear or stress.



Human hair can be straight, curly or wavy, thin or thick. Everything depends on the individual hair structure, which an Earthling inherits from their parents.



Earthlings have a tendency to follow trends. The latest trend is to get rid of most visible body hair, although this practice was already popular in ancient times as an indication of a high social status. Many adult Earthlings remove the hair in their armpits and their legs regularly, but some don't care at all. Young people today often say that not shaving is a sign of protest against societal norms.



Some Earthlings like to change the colour of their hair with dye, using a variety of chemicals. In ancient times, they'd use plants for this purpose or even pigeon poop and horse wee.



#### HAIRY MANIFESTO

The purpose of hair is to help insulate and protect the human body, but over time, hair has also taken on a symbolic and cultural role. An Earthling's hairstyle can say a lot about a person, for instance: their culture, their faith, their taste in music or books, their gender, their age, their social status – and even indicate that they have warrior or soldier status.

In the 1950s, 7% of Earthling women chose to change their hair colour. Today, that number has jumped to 75% for women, while it is 10% for men. Overall, 35% of those who dye their hair opt for lighter shades.



Every day an Earthling loses about 50–100 hairs from the top of their heads. New hairs soon grow in their place.



When human hair gets wet or damp, it stretches out and appears longer.



#### BALDING

At a certain age, an Earthling's hair starts to thin or they may even go bald. Europeans are more susceptible to going bald than Asians, South Americans or Africans. China has the lowest percentage of bald Earthlings, while Native Americans lose very little any hair at all. Most often, the people who don't end up balding tend to have less hair on their faces and bodies.

80% of men over the age of 50 start losing their hair (in some the process begins much earlier). Around 40% of women also experience some degree of balding.



## HEIGHT

Earthlings get taller as they grow from children into adults. When they become elderly, they start to shrink again.



Earthlings are short when they are born, measuring about 50 centimetres. The first year of their life is a time of rapid growth.



Earthlings tend to grow during the night, when they are sleeping. This might be why human parents encourage their children to sleep for as long as possible.



After the age of 40, Earthlings start to lose some of their height. But not all of them 'shrink' at the same rate. People who regularly engage in exercise and stretching do so more slowly, especially if they get plenty of sleep and follow a healthy diet.

At ten years of age, all Earthling children are about the same height (approximately 136cm). In the next year, girls start to grow much faster and end up about 2cm taller than the boys in their community. Then it switches two to three years later – when the boys often catch up and end up taller than the girls. Earthlings keep growing until around the age of 18.



A human being's height may also vary throughout the day. When they go to bed, they tend to be about a centimetre shorter than when they wake up in the morning.



Human men are typically taller than women. Adult males are an average of 175 centimetres tall, while adult women are 162 centimetres.



In Macedonia, women are much shorter than men – by as much as 16 centimetres. However, this is not the case everywhere in the world. In Gambia, men are only six centimetres taller (on average) than women.



The tallest Earthlings on the planet live in the Netherlands – with an average height of about 183 centimetres. The shortest Earthlings, with an average of 158 centimetres in height, live in Indonesia, Bolivia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia.



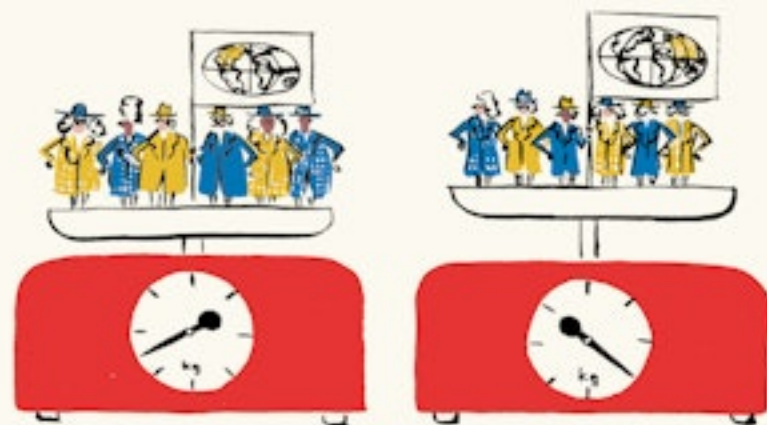
The average adult Earthling is eight to nine centimetres taller than their ancestor would have been 100 years ago. This is thanks to better health and better access to food. There have been times when Earthlings have grown taller, but also times when they've gotten smaller. European men from the Paleolithic era were much taller than the men of today – their average height was 179 centimetres and 158

centimetres for women. In the Neolithic era, when Earthlings began to cultivate the land, their height dropped to 165 centimetres for men and 150 centimetres for women. In the Middle Ages, Earthlings grew taller, with men reaching 173 centimetres and women 157 centimetres. At the start of the nineteenth century, Earthling height levelled out to 163 centimetres for men and 152 centimetres for women.



## WEIGHT

How much an Earthling weighs depends on their height, sex, age, health, activity level, genes and appetite.



The average Earthling weighs 62.6 kilograms, although this number can vary greatly depending on the region. The heaviest humans live in North America, while the lightest are in Asia.



Four out of ten Earthlings weigh more than their recommended weight.

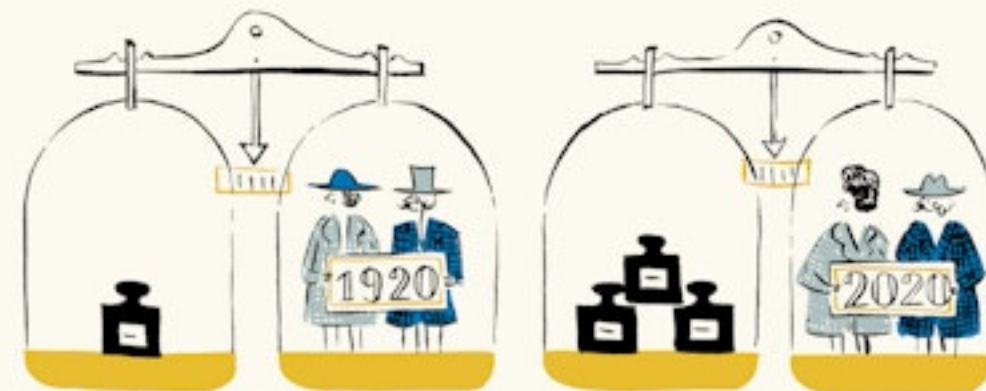


One out of ten Earthlings weighs less than their recommended weight. This may be the result of an illness or lack of sufficient access to food.



Earthlings are becoming heavier overall. This is because the food that modern humans eat is often quite sugary and greasy. A lack of physical activity can also make a person gain excess weight.

About 39% of human beings are considered to be overweight. For children (under 18 years old) the figure is 18%. Excess weight is the cause of 8% of human deaths. On the other hand, starvation is the cause of 1% of human deaths.



For most of human history, Earthlings seem to have been quite hungry. Even one hundred years ago, the notion of being overweight was not common at all – back then, merely one in every hundred Earthlings carried a bit more weight than the average. Just 50 years later, this ratio had risen to one in ten. If the trend continues, by 2050 the ratio will see one out of every two Earthlings being overweight.



That said, muscles are heavier than fat. This is why some athletes can weigh much more than their non-athletic counterparts with a similar build.



Women tend to have a thicker layer of stored fat on their bodies. This is why they often weigh less than a man with a similar build.



Many of today's Earthlings complain about wanting to lose weight. Modern humans can find it hard to be positive about their body shape and many of them suffer from psychological issues related to food and eating.

89% of adult women on Earth are critical of their own weight. About 9% of Earthlings suffer from some form of eating disorder. The most common disorders are anorexia nervosa and bulimia, where sufferers go to drastic (and very harmful) lengths to lose weight. Most victims of anorexia (65%) and bulimia (83%) are 12-26 years of age.



Meanwhile, Earthlings of the Paleolithic era would have dreamed of putting a bit more weight on their bones. A curvy body was a sign of wealth and prestige, as indicated by the curvaceous figures on sculptures from that era.



## DISABILITY

Fifteen out of one hundred Earthlings have some form of disability. They can either be born with a disability or become disabled at some point in their lives.

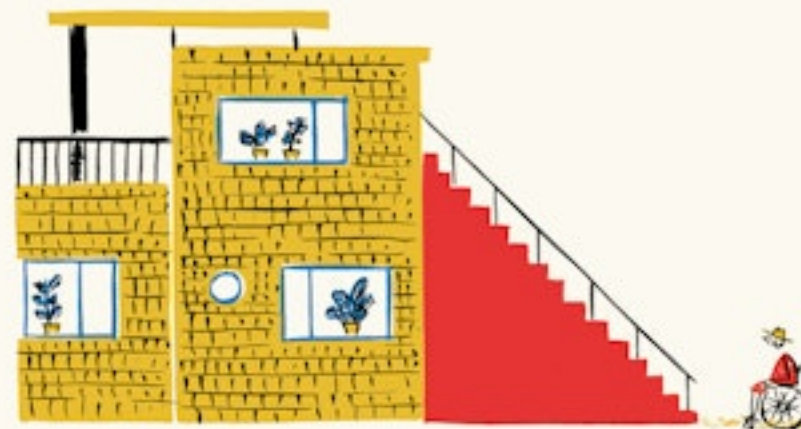


An estimated 1.3 billion people experience significant disability. This represents 16 per cent of the world's population, or one in six of us.



There are more and more disabled Earthlings on the planet each year. This is mainly because the human lifespan is longer than it has ever been. Nearly half of people above the age of 60 have some form of disability. In countries where the average life span is above 70 years old, people continue living with their disability for an average of eight years.

3.4% of Earthlings have sight loss, 6% are hard of hearing, 3% have a mental disability and 10% have a physical one. 80% of all disabilities are invisible.



Ableism is a modern Earthling word that refers to a lack of consideration for disabled people and their needs, or outright discrimination. Earthlings display their ableism by not factoring in the needs of disabled people in planning projects such as public spaces and architectural structures.



Earthling mythology is full of disabled heroes and gods. The Aztec God Tezcatlipoca lost his left foot in a battle with a lion, which he replaced with a snake. The Nordic God Tyr lost his arm to the jaws of the dog Fenrir. Hodur, Odin's son, was born blind. Hephaestus was another deity who managed his disability rather well. The son of Zeus and Hera was the

Greek god of fire and metallurgy. He had difficulties walking due to a limp, and grew up to become the husband of the most beloved goddess of all – Aphrodite. He built himself a stunning chariot, which sported both wheels and wings. He also created four golden automatons who would help him with his work and getting around.

Each year a country loses 3-7% in the value of its economy (expressed as GDP) because of hiring practices that exclude disabled people from the workforce. Only 2% of the characters in Earthling movies and television have some kind of disability. When it comes to the main characters, 95% of the time, they are played by able-bodied actors.



## FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Most Earthlings use their right hands for eating, writing or drawing, but some prefer to use their left. Some people are even ambidextrous and can use both hands.



Eighty-five out of one hundred Earthlings describe themselves as right-handed, while 14 per cent prefer their left hands and one per cent are ambidextrous. For a long time, left-handedness was considered to be a flaw and discouraged. Even 40 years ago, most devices were adapted only to the needs of right-handed individuals, while those who were left-handed were forced to adapt at school, at home and in the workplace.

In the animal world, left-handedness is more common. Most kangaroos prefer their left paws. Dogs tend to be evenly split among left-handed, right-handed and ambidextrous – so when an Earthling asks a dog for its paw, they really never know which one they're going to get.



The ancient Incas considered left-handedness a divine gift from the gods, who also happened to be left-handed. They were convinced that left-handed people had magical abilities and power to heal the sick.



In medieval Europe, left-handed people were believed to be dangerous. In Christianity, before Lucifer descended into the Underworld he sat on the left side of God himself. And so it made sense for demons to be left-handed.



### ON THE ROAD

Earthlings have a hard time deciding what side of the road they want to travel on, especially with the invention of automobiles. Around 65 per cent of the world's population drives on the right-hand side of the road, whereas 35 per cent drive on the left. The latter list includes Earthlings from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Kenya, South Africa and Jamaica.



In ancient times, travellers on horseback would keep to the left side of the road. If they were carrying a sword, they preferred to have their right arm ready to strike at any impending threat. They'd hold their swords to the left so that they wouldn't get in the way. Prior to the French Revolution, aristocrats preferred to travel on the left, forcing the peasantry to take the right side. After the fall of the Bastille, the French upper classes no longer felt the urge to distinguish their rank so conspicuously – so they'd lean into the right side with everyone else. Napoleon

was said to be a big fan of this 'revolutionary' system, as he was left-handed. And in all the territories he invaded, Napoleon introduced this system to all traffic. In contrast, Britain retained the policy of keeping the left lane for traffic and introduced this standard throughout the regions that it absorbed into its empire. In Japan, the tradition of left-lane traffic is a tribute to right-handed, sword-wielding samurais. Sweden switched from the left to the right traffic system in 1967, in spite of the public being largely against it.



## MEAL TIME

While plants are able to produce their own fuel, animals and humans need to eat food to produce the energy needed to stay alive.



Earthlings are omnivorous, meaning that they eat (almost) everything. But not everyone prefers the same kinds of foods. A person's diet usually depends on where in the world they live as well as their culture, religion and individual tastes.



### PLANT EATERS

Since prehistoric times, the Earthling diet has mainly been based on plants. There are about 50,000 edible plants known to humans.



Grains are a staple of the human diet – mainly rice, corn and wheat.



Earthlings eat an average of 140 kilograms of vegetables and 69 kilograms of fruit every year. Their favourite fruit is the banana. In a year, the average human eats 13 kilograms of bananas.

75% of human beings eat animal meat, while 11% are vegetarians (restricting their diets to plants) or vegans (further cutting out eggs, dairy products and other animal products). 14% of people describe themselves as flexitarians, meaning they mostly eat plants, but will occasionally add meat or animal products to their meals. Flexitarians often make sure the meat products they consume come from humane and sustainable sources.



The most popular vegetable on the planet is the tomato. Note: Earthling botanists classify this plant as a fruit since its structure resembles that of a berry. However, in food preparation, its role is more similar to that of a vegetable.



Americans eat 42 kilograms of tomatoes per year, most of it in the form of pasta and pizza sauce.



Greece holds the record for tomato consumption, with 104 kilograms eaten annually.



### MEAT EATERS

Most Earthlings eat the flesh of fish, birds or mammals. Meat eating began a long time ago with scavenging, but 13,000 years ago humans began to domesticate animals and raise livestock for food.

The majority of earthly meat eaters live in the United States and Australia, with 100kg of meat consumed annually per person. People living in India and Bangladesh eat the least amount of meat, with 5kg per person.





#### BUGGING OUT

A quarter of human beings on Earth are bug eaters. Insects are both tasty and highly nutritious. They contain more protein, healthy fats and vitamins than the meat of birds and mammals. Their cultivation doesn't require forest land to be cut down for pasture. Moreover, insects don't need much water, they don't release greenhouse gases and they don't produce manure (poop).



Earthlings consume more than 2,000 different types of edible insects.



Most of the Earth's bug eaters live in Asia, Africa, South America and Australia. In South East Asia, bugs make up an essential part of a healthy diet. Crickets and cockroaches are on the menu at both fancy restaurants and humble street carts alike.

For 25% of humans on Earth, bugs make up an essential part of their diets. The most popular bugs to eat include: beetles (31%), caterpillars (17%), bees, wasps and ants (15%), grasshoppers, crickets and locusts (13%), cicadas (11%), termites (3%), dragonflies (3%), flies (2%) and various others (5%).



In South America, many cinemas will serve up a tub of crunchy ants instead of popcorn. In Nigeria, chocolate-covered bees are a well-known delicacy. In Japan, the favourite meal of Emperor Hirohito (1901–1989) was rice cooked with roasted wasps.



Statistically, Earthlings end up wasting a third of the food they produce. This amounts to 1.1 billion tonnes of food. Half of all edible fruit and vegetables end up in the bin. Every fifth glass of milk, piece of meat and loaf of bread end up getting wasted.



#### DINING STYLES

Earthlings eat their meals in a variety of different ways: sitting at a table, standing up, lying down or squatting.



People use different kinds of utensils to scoop their food into their mouths, including spoons, knives and forks or chopsticks. Many humans simply use their hands to eat.



The knife is the first utensil to have been adopted by early humans. However, in many Asian countries it is believed that knives are a weapon that have no place on the dining table.

Humans waste an average of 115kg of food per year. The most wasteful nations include Saudi Arabia (with 250kg per person binned annually), Indonesia (102kg) and the European Union (131kg). The least amount of food waste is in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia (6–11kg).





Chopsticks are typically used in East Asia, including China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam.



Chopsticks were invented 5,000 years ago in China. Their early version was made up of twigs used to mix stews and grains, serve meals and pick up individual morsels of food.



It's generally considered rude to tap your chopsticks or to use them to point at someone. Sticking a pair straight down into the middle of a dish is also frowned upon.



Countries where the locals prefer to eat with the hands include India, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos (in South East Asia) and most of Africa.

Every year, China produces 45 billion pairs of chopsticks from the wood of about 20 million trees.



Earthlings who prefer to eat with their hands form a sort of spoon out of their hands, scoop up a morsel of food, raise it up and use their thumb to push it into their mouths. Washing their hands before and after a meal is essential.



In Islamic tradition, it is customary to eat with the right hand. The left hand is considered 'unclean' and shouldn't be used to touch food or even the table. The left hand should hang to the side or rest in the lap.



Cutlery, which includes a knife and fork, is used by Europeans, Australians and North Americans.



There are two ways of using a knife and fork: the continental way (most common in Europe) and the American way. Continental diners hold their knives in the right hand and fork in the left. The knife is used to cut food into bites, while the fork is used to place them in the mouth. In the American style, food is cut into morsels with the knife in the right hand, then the knife is set aside and the fork is passed to the right hand to bring the morsel to the mouth.



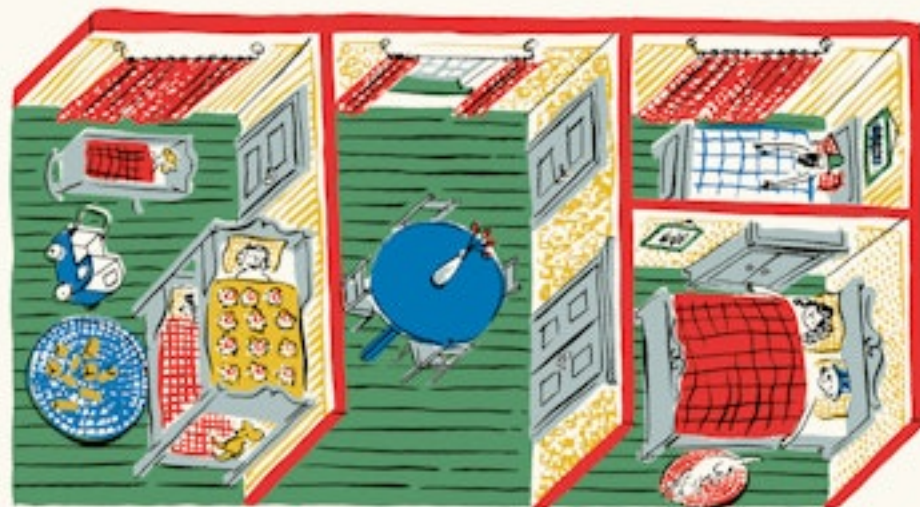
When it comes to spoons, Earthlings just place the tip of it in the mouth when consuming a liquid meal, such as soup. The British are an exception, as they tend to sip their soup from the side of the spoon. In the Philippines, they use spoons to cut their food. In Thailand, people use a fork to push food onto their spoon before raising it to their mouths.

35% of human beings eat with their hands, 30% with chopsticks and 35% use a knife and fork.



## SERIOUS SLUMBER

Human beings end up spending one-third of their lives asleep (i.e. more than 25 years).



The older an Earthling gets, the less sleep they need to function. Newborn Earthlings sleep about 17 hours a day, pre-schoolers sleep 12 hours, schoolchildren 10 hours, teenagers 9 hours, adults 8 hours and seniors just 6 hours. Adult Earthlings who don't get enough sleep can end up in a state of exhaustion and experience hallucinations. Sleepy children may tend to get frustrated and even aggressive.



Earthlings all dream every single night, but they don't all remember their dreams after waking. According to earthly scientists, an average Earthling has between four and six dreams per night.



Earthlings who do remember their dreams report many similar themes: dogs, pregnancy, losing teeth, snakes, flying, falling and appearing naked in public.



One in three Earthlings snore – and the older they get, the more they snore. It is said that when an Earthling is snoring, they aren't dreaming.



Two out of three Earthlings end up talking in their sleep, while five out of one hundred sleep walk. Children are more susceptible to nightmares than adults. Half of all human children between three and six years old have scary dreams, while this number drops to one out of five for children six to twelve years old.



Earthlings are getting less sleep than they used to. In 1942, Americans reported they were sleeping an average of 7.9 hours per night, whereas in 2013, that figure was down to 6.8 hours. However, science shows that an extra 60 minutes of sleep is essential to a human's health and happiness.



Earthlings sleep in all different positions, with 42 per cent taking a fetal position (i.e. mimicking the form of a fetus in the womb). 25 per cent sleep on their sides, 13 per cent on their backs with their arms above their head, 7 per cent on their backs with their arms by their sides (like warriors), 7 per cent on their bellies and 6 per cent with their arms and legs spread out like a starfish. That latter group ends up taking up the most space in bed.

95% of humans end up forgetting what they dreamed right after waking. 12% report that they see their dreams in black and white. 65% of people have trouble sleeping, with 20% experiencing insomnia (inability to fall asleep), while 80% report they wish to improve their quality of sleep. After the age of 60, they are more likely to snore, with 40% of women and 60% of men snoring.



## HYGIENE MATTERS

Like all creatures on Earth, human beings like to keep themselves clean.



Animals have many ways of maintaining their hygiene, which includes keeping clean and getting rid of parasites. For instance, cats lick their fur to remove dirt, while rhinoceroses bathe in mud, birds wallow in dust, elephants roll around in sand, bears go for a swim and monkeys comb through their fur and pick out lice. Human beings prefer to use soap and water to freshen up.



Earthlings use the bathroom an average of six to eight times a day.

71% of Earthlings have plumbing (pipes that carry running water) at home.



Using soap and water to wash their hands is the best way for Earthlings to get rid of harmful germs and bacteria. Earthlings tend to wash their hands only when they're obviously dirty. Only one in five people make sure to wash their hands after using the toilet.



Wet hands carry more germs than dry hands.



### TEETH CLEANING

Most Earthlings have adopted traditional techniques to clean their teeth, such as using a moistened twig to individually rub each tooth. Some Earthlings use their fingers, animal bones, feathers, quills, bristles or brushes.



Half the people on Earth clean their teeth once or twice a day, as recommended. Only two per cent of humans don't brush their teeth at all, which isn't recommended.



Many animals also chew twigs, bark, bones and grass to clean their teeth. An animal diet doesn't include acids or sugars (as most human diets do), so they don't need to worry as much about tooth decay.

80% of human illnesses are transmitted through touch. 90% of the germs people carry are trapped below their nails.





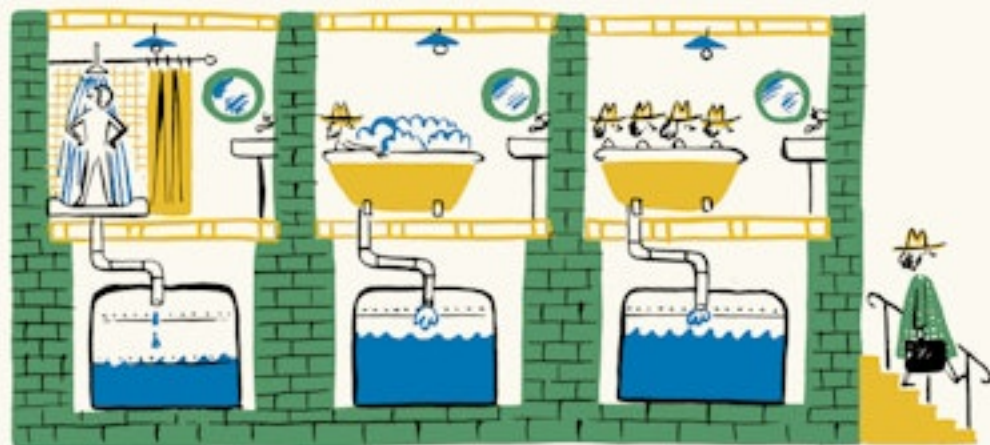
#### BATH TIME

Earthlings tend to bathe or shower about five times per week. The most frequent bathers are Brazilians, showering up to 14 times per week.



#### TOILET TRIPS

About half the human beings on Earth have access to a safe toilet, meaning that it is properly enclosed and doesn't spread germs or pollute the environment. Today, only six out of one hundred Earthlings relieve themselves out in the open.



A quick shower uses up less water than filling up the bathtub. However, if a shower goes on for quite a long time, a bath can be the more sensible option. Sharing the same bathwater or ensuring the bathtub is only half full are just a couple of ways in which humans can conserve this precious resource.



Three out of five Earthlings like to sing or hum in the shower.

99% of Brazilians prefer showering to bathing, whereas 75% of Japanese people prefer the bath. The average amount of time spent in the bath is 30 minutes, while it's closer to 13 minutes for a shower. Taking a quick shower (less than 10 minutes) uses up less water than a typical bath.



Many Earthlings like to use toilet paper to clean themselves afterwards. It takes about 384 trees to produce enough toilet paper to last an average Earthling over their lifetime.

60% of Earthlings crouch down to use the toilet, while 40% prefer to sit. 70% of Earthlings clean their rear ends with soap and water after pooping, while the rest use toilet paper. 70% of people living in Eritrea, Niger and Chad relieve themselves out in the open. In countries like Japan, just about everyone prefers the privacy of an indoor toilet.



## LIFE SPAN

Earthlings live about 73 years, on average.



Half the people living on Earth are adults who are typically employed in some line of work. The other half is made up of children, young adults and older adults (i.e. senior citizens).



There are countries with a much greater proportion of children. There are also countries with a greater number of older people.

26% of Earthlings are below 15 years of age, 15% are teenagers and young adults (15–25), 50% are 25–65 and 9% are over 65. In Nigeria, about 44% of people are under 15 years of age and only 3% are over 65. In Japan, children and teenagers make up only 13% of the population, while senior citizens are close to 30%.

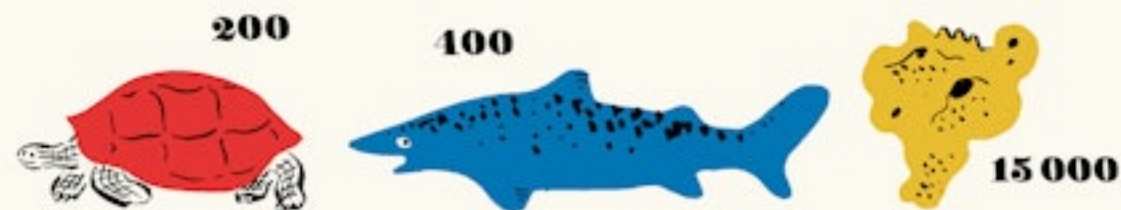


Men live an average of 70 years and women 75 years. The life expectancy of a human living in poverty (with reduced access to basic resources) is about ten years lower than that of humans living in wealthier regions of the world.



Human life expectancy has evolved through the ages. In prehistoric times, Homo sapiens usually lived to about 33. In this period, Earthlings were mostly nomadic hunters and gatherers. In the Neolithic era, when humans began to

establish settlements to raise crops and livestock, their life expectancy dropped to 20 years old. By 1800, most humans did not live past the age of 30. In 1950, human life expectancy jumped to 46 years old and has continued to rise.



In other words, humans are living longer and longer lives. Yet there are certain animals that greatly outlive humans, such as Galapagos turtles (over 200 years), polar sharks (about 400 years) and sea sponges (up to 15,000 years).

Humans living in Sub-Saharan Africa have the shortest lives – an average life span of 61 years overall, compared to people in Western Europe, who live to about 84. Earthlings end up spending one-third of their lives asleep and one-fifth of their lives at work.



## LONGEVITY

There are six nations on Earth where people enjoy the longest life spans.



### JAPAN (84.2 YEARS)

Japanese people eat very little meat and lots of fruits and vegetables. They take part in regular physical activity, even in old age.



### SINGAPORE (83.8 YEARS)

Singapore is considered to be the 'happiest' nation in Asia. Singaporeans enjoy the highest level of healthcare and support from infancy to old age.



### SWITZERLAND (83.1 YEARS)

As residents of one of the wealthiest nations in Europe, the Swiss have access to plenty of leisure time and fresh air.



### AUSTRALIA (83 YEARS)

Dubbed the 'lucky country', Australia offers its residents a good life full of sunshine. However, its Indigenous peoples aren't as fortunate – Aboriginals live an average of 70 years.



### SPAIN (82.4 YEARS)

Perhaps the Spanish siesta is the recipe for longevity after all? A nice break in the middle of the day gives the Spanish a chance to enjoy a good meal and an afternoon nap.



### FRANCE (82.2 YEARS)

French people often attribute their longevity to their fine red wine, which some scientists claim can help reduce the chance of heart disease. The second secret to their success is a balanced diet and small portions, which makes the French among the leanest citizens of Europe.



The most famous book in Earthling history – the Holy Bible – features sensational details on the long lives of its ancient people. Adam, the first man, was said to live 903 years, while his son Seth lived 912 years. The biblical record-holder is Methuselah – grandfather of the famous ark builder Noah – who lived to the ripe old age of 969.

## KEEPING THE FAITH

Earthlings overwhelmingly follow a faith or religion of some kind, with more than eight out of ten believing in one or more gods. Only six out of ten Earthlings believe there is life on other planets.



Most Earthlings are monotheistic, meaning that they believe in a single god. Those who believe in a collection of gods are polytheistic. There are also religions that don't include any gods, such as Buddhism. Early and ancient humans typically followed either polytheistic faiths or pagan beliefs, such as animism.



Earthlings who are religious look to their faith for guidance on how to conduct their lives in accordance with a certain set of morals and rules. Religion also informs them of what they might expect in the afterlife. Many human religions are based around the notion of heaven (good) and hell (evil).



Historically, religion has often been tied to certain monarchs and ruling factions who deemed themselves representatives of god (or gods) on Earth.



Earthlings have been fighting religious wars for centuries, along with forcing people in occupied lands to convert to the invader's religion.

The most common religion on Earth is Christianity (31%). Islam is practiced by 24% of humanity, Hinduism 15%, Buddhism 7%, paganism and animism 6% and Judaism 0.2%. The monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam have a common root and are referred to as 'Abrahamic faiths'. The polytheistic faith of Hinduism encompasses many different gods, with some sources citing close to 30 million individual deities. Finally, 16% of humans don't believe in any god at all.



## COMMUNICATION

Earthlings use a wide range of language systems to express themselves orally and in writing – over 7,000 individual languages and dialects!



Most living creatures on Earth (including plants) communicate with each other in some way, usually through sound. Humans and animals use their voices to express intentions and emotions to others, as well as to mark out their territory. Human language uses words and sounds to express ideas (both abstract and concrete), to explain situations and scenarios from the past, present and even future, and to tell stories.



The most common language spoken among the Earth's global population is Mandarin (Chinese). More than a billion Earthlings speak it as their first language.

17% of people worldwide speak English, 15% Mandarin, 7% Hindi, 6% Spanish, 1% French. The most common first languages include: Mandarin (12%), Spanish (6%), English (5%), Arabic (4%), Hindi (4%), Bengali (3%), Portuguese (3%), Russian (2%) and Japanese (2%).



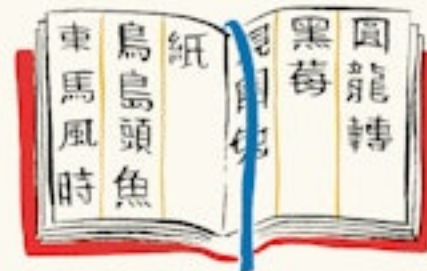
The most popular language is English, which is spoken (to some extent) by 1.5 billion people around the world. For most of them, English is a second language (or even third or fourth) that they've picked up.

## WRITING WORKSHOP

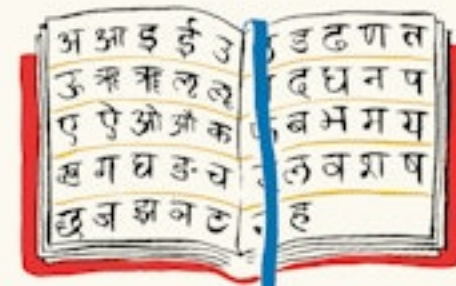
Earthlings use a range of symbols and alphabets to write, depending on the language and region.



The Latin alphabet is basically comprised of 26 individual letters. Text is written from left to right and top to bottom. This alphabet forms the basis of most European languages.



The Chinese writing system is among the oldest and most complex on Earth. It is made up of 47,035 unique characters. The average person in China can read over 8,000 characters. To understand a typical newspaper article, one would need to know at least 3,500. Texts are written and read vertically – from top to bottom, left to right.



All modern Indian writing systems come from the original Devanāgarī script, representing 14 vowels and 33 consonants. Characters are written out from left to right and top to bottom. There is no difference between uppercase and lowercase letters.



The Arabic alphabet is made up of 18 basic characters, which can then be extended to 28 letters thanks to the addition of one, two or three additional dots. The Arabic and Hebrew writing systems go from right to left, top to bottom.



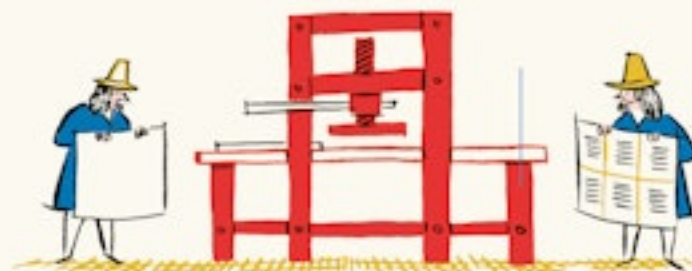
The most widely translated book in the world is the Bible. Earthlings can read this religious text (in whole or in part) in 3,589 languages. The next most popular book is *The Little Prince* by French author Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, translated into 382 languages.

At least 3,866 earthly languages can be formally written down. 39% of the Earth's population use the Latin alphabet, 18% Chinese, 25% Devanagari script, 14% Arabic and 4% Cyrillic (most common in Russia).





For every 100 Earthlings, 87 of them can read and write. For education, 87 have also attended primary school, while 66 attended secondary school, 40 have studied at an institution of higher learning and 7 of them have received a university diploma.



In the past, reading and writing were not as common among Earthlings. These skills were usually reserved for political leaders, the clergy and academics. Books were a rarity given how time-consuming it was to manufacture each volume by hand, and therefore books were expensive to make and to purchase – until the invention of the printing press in 1450,

which revolutionised the publishing world. At last, books, newspapers and other printed matter were widely available to the public and in their local languages and dialects. Improved access to the written word also encouraged literacy among the public. Ways of reading also changed, shifting from the oral tradition in public to a quiet, more solitary activity.

More than 3,000 human languages are at risk of disappearing. These languages are often only spoken by the elders of a society and children do not grow up learning them. Out of all the languages in the world, 50% are spoken by fewer than 100,000 people, 25% by fewer than 1,000, and 64% by just a few people. Even 1,000 years ago, there were as many as 9,000 Earthling languages in use. By 2050, only 4,500 will remain.

## FAST EARTHLY FACTS

There are eight billion human beings alive on Earth today.



And that number keeps growing. Two centuries ago, there were just about a billion people walking the Earth. By the 2050s, the global population will have risen to ten billion.



Today, more than half the people on Earth live in urban centres known as cities. In the past, people used to live in rural villages. Even two centuries ago, 93 per cent of Earthlings lived outside of urban areas.



Nine out of ten city dwellers are exposed to air pollutions, such as smog.



Three out of ten people living in urban areas live in extreme poverty, often in slums.

If we imagine that in year 0 the human population numbered 200 million, by 1600 it would have grown to 500 million, by 1927 two billion, by 1960 three billion. Today 56% of humans live in cities. By 2050, this proportion will rise to 70%.





On Earth, wealth is spread quite unevenly among its inhabitants. There are more people living in poverty on this planet than wealthy people. The gap between rich and poor is unfathomably large and it continues to get bigger each year.



Earthlings produce and consume huge amounts of energy, food and other goods. A large proportion of these resources and products is wasted. This leads to air, water and soil pollution, which harms the planet's delicate balance. Overproduction and pollution are the main sources of climate change, as evidenced by higher global temperatures, rising sea levels and extreme weather events such as heat waves, hurricanes, floods and wildfires.



Wealthy Earthlings have greater access to the planet's natural resources. If every single Earthling on the planet replicated the privileged lifestyle of a well-to-do American or Qatari, human beings would need five to ten more planet Earths to satisfy the demand for resources.



However, by choosing a more modest lifestyle, Earthlings could reduce the consumption of their planet's resources to less than one per cent of its full potential.

Half the world's wealth is in the hands of the richest 1% of Earthlings. The richest 10% own 76% of the planet's precious resources. The poorest 50% of Earthlings share a meagre 2% of the planet's wealth.

Earthlings consume their planet's resources at a speed that is twice the rate of renewability. If humans developed new methods of sustainability and waste reduction, they could repair this balance, with minimal impact on their quality of life.



One easy solution is to reduce food waste and to consume more plants and less meat.



Reduce energy consumption by shutting off unnecessary lamps and devices.



Cut back on the purchase of new goods to lower demand and reduce production.



Walking, cycling and taking the train are more sustainable options compared with travelling by car or plane.



Moderate heating and cooling in the home.



Reduce deforestation by lowering paper consumption and planting more trees and other greenery.



The authors of this report are unable to predict what steps Earthlings will take to better care for their planet and its resources. Members of the committee of representatives of the highest forms of intelligent life in the Cosmos have recommended continued observations of Earthling activities. The report has been discovered with a memo stuck to the front page, stating: Check again in 1,000 years to verify the path that human destiny will follow!





This report was compiled by cosmic representatives of the Supreme Interplanetary Council, supplemented by scientific data from the following sources on Earth.

anad.org; britannica.com; cia.gov; datareportal.com; data.worldbank.org; esa.int; fao.org; freedomhouse.org; gapminder.org; guinnessworldrecords.com; internetworldstats.com; kids.britannica.com; nasa.gov; nature.com; oecd.org; ourworldindata.org; overshootday.org; pewresearch.org; pnas.org; sciencedaily.com; smithsonianmag.com; statista.com; statistictimes.com; stats.oecd.org; theglobaleconomy.com; theworldcounts.com; un.org; unicef.org; who.int; wikipedia.org; worldatlas.com; worldbank.org; worldmeters.info; world-statistics.org; worldpopulationreview.com

The author has made every effort to ensure that the information in this book is complete and correct at the time of press. However, some data will vary depending on the source.





