



Cut Up World

Cut a paper plate into quarters. Put aside three of the quarters. What do these represent? The oceans of our world, the Blue Planet.

The fraction left is $\frac{1}{4}$. Slice it in half. Set aside one of the halves. This is the part that people can't live or work on such as the poles, deserts, swamps, high mountains, etc.

What's left? $\frac{1}{8}$. This is where the humans live, but not necessarily where they grow their food.

Slice your $\frac{1}{8}$ piece into four sections. Put aside three of them. What's left? $\frac{1}{32}$.

The three pieces you set aside represent the places where the soil is too poor to farm – where it's too rocky, wet, cold, or steep to produce food. They also represent the cities, houses, highways, shopping malls, schools, parks, factories, parking lots, and miniature golf courses where people live, play and work – but do not grow food.

Take your $\frac{1}{32}$ piece that's left. This represents the farmable surface topsoil of the planet, the thin skin of the Earth's crust upon which humankind totally depends. It is less than 5 feet deep and it is quite a fixed amount of food producing land. Treat it wisely.