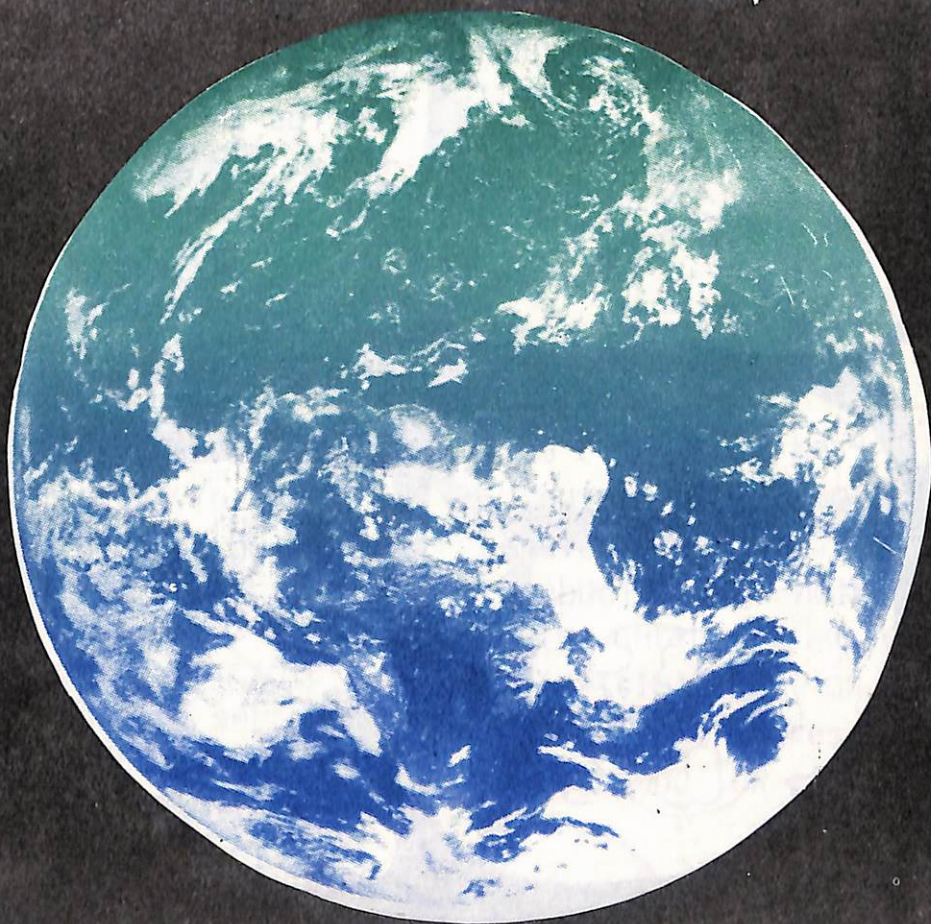


**PROBE**

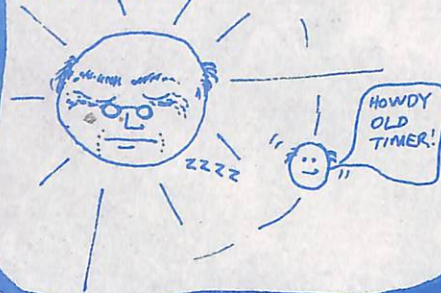


whose planet is this?.....

# this is planet

# earth !

The earth is about as old as the sun. That's nearly 4550,000,000 years old!



In the last twenty years we have been able to look at our planet from space, with special cameras in rockets.



From space, the earth looks like a blue watery ball, covered with white clouds.



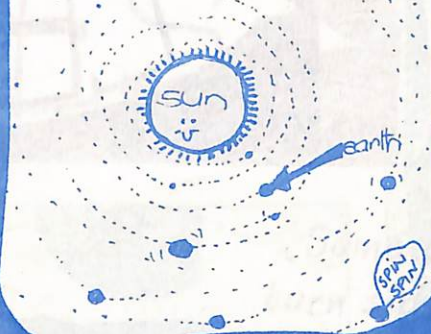
The sun gives us the light we need to live.



The earth is made up of layers of rock. The outside part we live on is called the -----



The earth is one of nine planets that spin around the sun.



The earth is the only planet that has just the right amount of air and light for us to live on.



Sometimes chunks of rock from space land on the earth. They are called meteoroids. They can leave dents or craters on the earth's surface.



The moon spins around the earth. It has an invisible pull on the sea, which makes the high and low tides.



\* What do these words mean?

ATMOSPHERE, PLANET,  
STAR, CRATER,  
SATELLITE, ORBIT.

The leaves of Australian plants are all different shapes and sizes. This is to help them live in places where it is very dry, and hot, or even where it's cold or wet.

TEXT: M. CARMICHAEL

ART WORK: W. PROHASKY.

Hairy leaves help to trap water on the leaf. For example, the Emu Bush.



In places where it is dry, the leaves are often thin, to stop the water EVAPORATING off them.



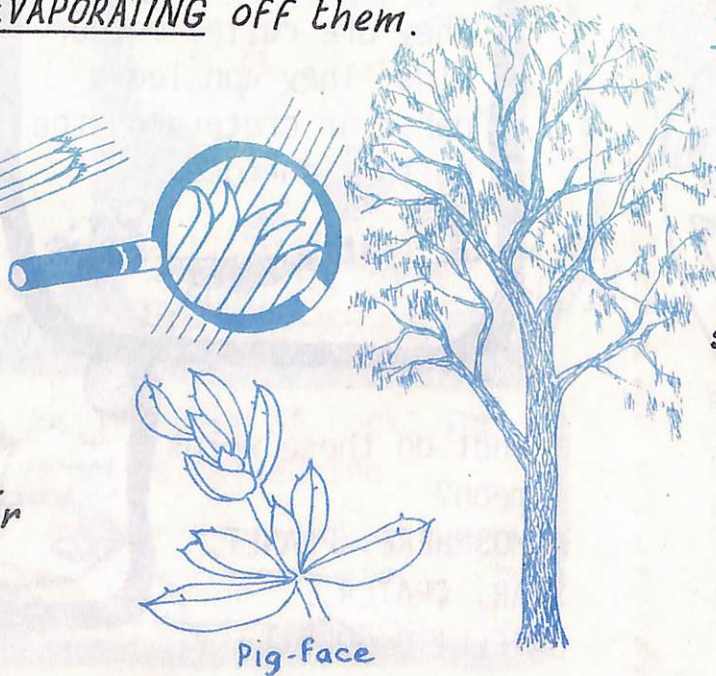
Some plants have leaves which can turn sideways to the hot sun, so they don't dry up as quickly.



Desert Oak tree

Desert Oak needles

Other plants like the Pig-face can store water in their leaves, to be used later by the plant.



Pig-face

In very wet areas, some plants have leaves that suck water out of the plant, and it drips off them onto the ground.



This one is called *Plectranthus argentatus*.

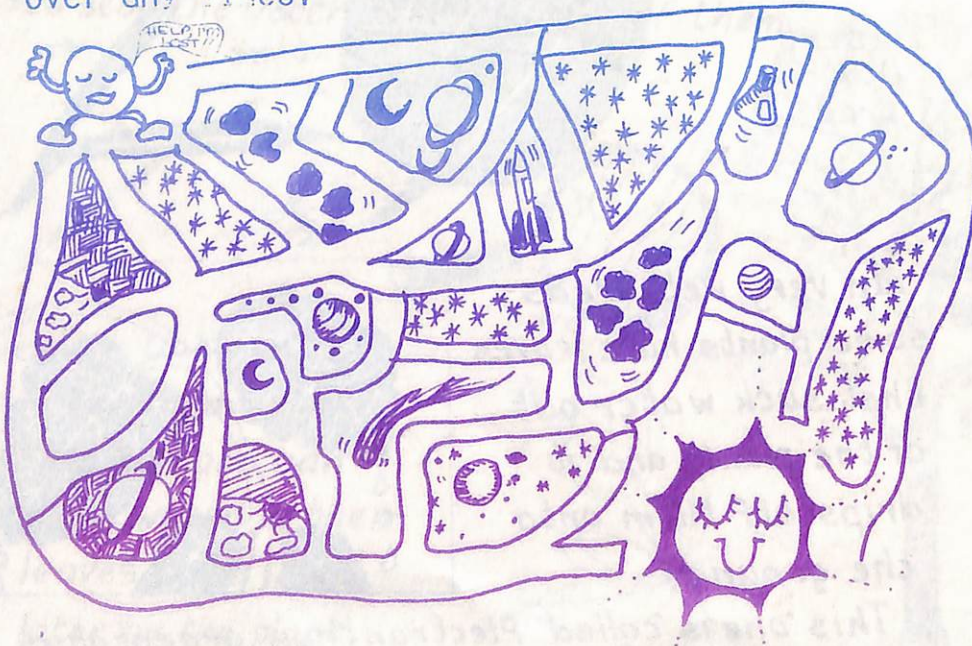
# Puzzles & Jokes

What game do spacemen play?  
Astronauts and crosses.  
Where do astronauts leave their  
spaceships?  
At parking meteors.

Can you unjumble the names of these planets?

oplut ransuu arms vesun threa transu

Can you help the planet find its  
way back to its star? Don't cross  
over any lines!



Can you match the  
names of these leaves?



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# DARING DRINKERS



- CAN YOU SEE THE DENTS? -

- PELICAN -

Some birds are never near fresh water. They are sea birds, like the albatross and the shearwater, who spend most of their lives flying over the sea. Have you ever thought of how these birds can live by drinking salt water? They have a special gland near their nose that takes the salt out of the sea water. They can then use the water in their bodies, and the left over salt comes out of the special glands, down their bills, and drips off. They even have special dents in their bills where the salty liquid runs off.

A Ringwood  
Inspectorate  
Publication

- \* Name some other sea birds.
- \* Watch a sea bird to see its nose dents
- \* What can you find out about the albatross?