

What Do We See on Earth's Surface Where We Live?

When we look around at the places where we live, one of the first things we might notice about Earth's surface could be examples of structures that people have created to help them do things, such as buildings, roads, and farms. These examples characterize the part of Earth's surface that we encounter every day.

If we look around to find places where there are no structures on the surface, we sometimes find plants growing on the surface. But what is Earth's surface like underneath all of these? If we could remove all these structures and all of these plants in all of these locations, what are some different things we would find? Record your ideas below:

While some places are covered with thick layers of soil, plants, and forests, other locations have huge pieces of rock visible at the surface, such as mountains and cliffs. Many of the places that people live and work have been modified significantly with things that are not necessarily natural to the land, such as adding grass, or cement. But, most of Earth's surface (70%) is covered by oceans. Probably the most striking thing is just how varied Earth's surface really is.



Tomek Walecki

In many places, the surface of Earth is often covered in loose pieces of material or sediment, such as dirt, sand, or gravel.



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In other places, larger pieces of solid rock are exposed, or sticking out of the surface, such as in many rock cliffs or mountain sides, like shown in the photos below.



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Use the space below to describe some of these natural materials you see on the surface in the area that you live. Next time you meet with your class, be ready to share the natural materials you found in the area that you live.

Describe some of the things that you notice on Earth's surface near your home or school.
