Any Way You Slice It
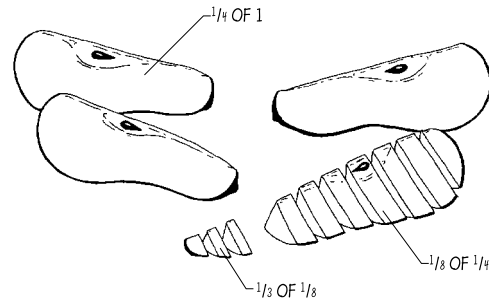
If all the water in the oceans were divided among all the people on earth, each person would have enough to fill 80 Olympic-sized swimming pools!

Materials/Equipment

knife   apple
paper   pencil

Time Required: 10 to 15 minutes

¹/₄ OF 1

¹/₈ OF ¹/₄

¹/₃ OF ¹/₈

Procedure

1. Cut the apple into four equal sections.

2. What percent of the earth's surface is water?

   Approximately 75 percent

3. How many apple slices represent the water on the earth?

   3 slices

4. What percent of the earth's water is salt water or ocean?

   97 percent

5. How much of the apple would represent the fresh water?

   3 percent

6. Cut one of the three "water" slices into eight equal-sized pieces. Each piece now represents about 3 percent of the total, approximating the amount of fresh water on the earth's surface. Set all but one of the pieces aside.

   Note that one of the eight pieces presents approximately 3 percent of the total represented by the three pieces.

7. How much of the fresh surface water on earth is in glaciers and the polar ice caps?

   2 percent of the total water or about 67 percent of the fresh water

8. Cut one of the eight small pieces into thirds. Each of these pieces will represent 1 percent. Set two of the pieces aside to represent these stored but unavailable water supplies.

9. How much of the water on the earth is actually available for us to use as fresh water?

   One (1) percent of the total water - approximately the amount indicated by the last remaining piece of the apple.