

# FLAT EARTH / APRIL FOOLS DAY LESSON HANDOUT

## Most Common Questions (and how to answer them)

### **Q: What about Photos or Videos of the Earth from space?**

*A: Photos and videos can be easily manipulated by programs like Photoshop. I bring up the fact that I can digitally place a photo of my face on the body of <hot actor/model of the day>, but it wouldn't actually mean I have that body. I also bring up the fact that Snapchat users can modify the faces of those captured on video too. Just because we see it on Snapchat doesn't mean it's real either. The same with photos and videos from space. All videos and/or photos from space are doctored.*

### **Q: People can walk in a straight line due east, go around the globe (ie. circumnavigate), and come back to the same spot. Doesn't this prove the earth is spherical?**

*A: Circumnavigation can work on flat earth too. A person circumnavigating the flat earth is basically walking a circle around the north pole (which is the centre of the flat earth map). All people who travel around the world use a compass. The compass always points towards the north pole. Thus, a person circumnavigating the flat earth would be like a pencil at the end of a string - with the other end of the string being planted at the north pole and the string being the direction that the compass points. If a person walks forward - like the pencil being held tight by the string - the person will walk a complete circle and end up at where they first started.*

### **Q: People can see the curvature of the earth from the top of a mountain or from an airplane. Doesn't this prove the earth is spherical?**

*A: People who say they can see the earth's curvature is actually observing the phenomena known as refraction - where the path of light changes direction as it moves from one media to another. I tell students that they've seen refraction in action before if they've ever placed part of their hand in water (like in a pool or bowl of water). What students see is that the part of the hand underwater appears slightly distorted from the rest of their hand. This is due to refraction. I also ask students if they've ever seen wavy lines rising from the sidewalk on a hot summer day. The distorted view is due to refraction as light travels from cold air to warm air. Thus, as light moves through the atmosphere, it refracts, and we may end up seeing a distorted, curved earth (when in fact the earth is flat).*

**Q: If the earth was flat, why can't I see the next big city from here?**

*A: The earth is flat, but that doesn't mean there aren't mountains and valleys that block us from seeing things in the distance. Telescopes and binoculars have a finite distance they can see as well. And, well, refraction also prevents us from seeing distant things too.*

**Q: People say the mast of a boat is the first thing they see coming over the horizon as a boat is approaching and the last thing that they see when a boat is leaving.**

**Doesn't this prove the earth is spherical?**

*A: Also due to refraction. The complete boat is still technically in view, but due to refraction, only the mast can be seen.*

**Q: How does sunrise and sunset work on flat earth? How do seasons work on flat earth?**

*A: Please refer to the Flat Earth Society FAQs page where there are diagrams and animations as well as a good explanation you can use.*

*[https://wiki.tfes.org/Flat\\_Earth\\_-\\_Frequently\\_Asked\\_Questions](https://wiki.tfes.org/Flat_Earth_-_Frequently_Asked_Questions)*

**Q: If the other planets are spherical, why isn't earth?**

*A: Other planets may actually be cookie shaped too and all we see is one side. I bring up the fact that we only ever see one side of the moon. Yes, there is a "dark side" of the moon - the other side of the cookie shaped moon.*