

Dr. Jeff's Blog on the Universe

<http://blogontheuniverse.org>

National Center for Earth and Space Science Education

Launched in May 2009, *Blog on the Universe* is for anyone that gets joy from learning and aspires to know. It is also dedicated to helping teachers and parents make science an adventure. Every week use Dr. Jeff's new conceptual nuggets and challenges to foster thought-provoking and inspiring discussions in the classroom and at home. It's a blog committed to conceptual understanding at an emotional level, helping to make the nature of the world understandable to all, and teachable by both teachers and parents. Join Dr. Jeff and take a ride to the frontiers of human exploration---together.

The compelling posts include a Weekly Challenge, Teachable Moments in the News, Dr. Jeff Speaks Out on the debate of the moment, and the endearing Driving with Jordi. The blog also contains Resource Pages with essays on the nature of our existence in a greater universe, the art of teaching, and the power of models in learning environments, powerful quotes on human exploration, a look at climate change, and resource lists for teachers, parents, and community leaders. Blogger Jeff Goldstein, Ph.D., is the Center's Director.

Get emotional about science. Visit <http://blogontheuniverse.org> and read "About This Blog"

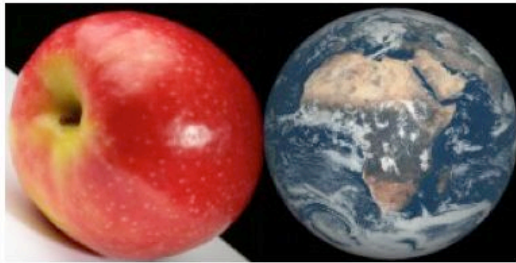
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helping teachers and parents make science an adventure

Apples and You

Posted by DrJeff | Filed under [1.4. Dr. Jeff's Jeffisms](#), [4. The Earth](#), [4.2. General Biosphere](#), [Climate Change](#)

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This post is a '[Jeffism](#)' by Dr. Jeff and a [Dr. Jeff Speaks Out](#).

Last time on the blog, I used astronaut John Grunsfeld's recent [Business Trip](#) to the Hubble Space Telescope to show you that the perceived limitless ocean of air we live under is really not limitless. At an altitude of 62 miles (100 km) above Earth's surface, you're effectively at the top of the atmosphere (since 99.99% of it is beneath you.) So let's really put this in perspective with a Dr. Jeff Jeffism:

Earth's atmosphere compared to Earth is thinner than the skin of an apple compared to an apple.

I truly hope that makes an impression on you. Read it again and let it sink in. Then take a moment and reflect on what you are thinking.

Now ... for the rest of the story—