

Nature's Web

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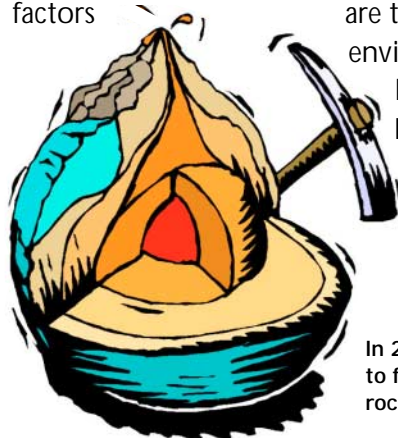
The Universe is massive – it is so big that it is hard for most of us to imagine its size. There are billions of more stars than we can see and it is quite possible that somewhere out there there is a solar system just like ours. Within our solar system and from what we know of it, we are the only planet to have conditions suitable for human existence. These conditions took millions and millions of years to become established. We now have clean water to drink, pleasant climates and land on which to grow food. All these factors



Photo courtesy of NASA

have made it possible for us as humans to live here. You might say that we should be continuously celebrating how lucky we are to have such an environment in which to live and this is true. But sometimes we need to make a special effort to remind ourselves of

the beauty of planet Earth. The year 2008 has been selected as the year where the people who have studied the planet and who work in the Earth Sciences (people such as geologists and hydrologists), want the rest of us to understand the Earth a little more. You can read about the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) on page 14 and how you can become involved.



In 2008, challenge yourself to find out more about the rocks in your area.