

Scientific Notation Worksheets

1. The approximate total surface area of Earth is $5.1 \times 10^8 \text{ km}^2$. All the salt water on Earth has an approximate surface area of $352,000,000 \text{ km}^2$, and all the freshwater on Earth has an approximate surface area of $9 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$. How much of Earth's surface is covered by water, including both salt and fresh water? Write your answer in scientific notation.

2. How much of Earth's surface is covered by land? Write your answer in scientific notation.

3. Approximately how many times greater is the amount of Earth's surface that is covered by water compared to the amount of Earth's surface that is covered by land?

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$$\begin{aligned} & (3.52 \times 10^8) + (9 \times 10^6) \\ &= (3.52 \times 10^2 \times 10^6) + (9 \times 10^6) \\ &= (352 \times 10^6) + (9 \times 10^6) = (352 + 9) \times 10^6 \\ &= 361 \times 10^6 = 3.61 \times 10^8 \end{aligned}$$

The Earth's surface is covered by $3.61 \times 10^8 \text{ km}^2$ of water.

2. How much of Earth's surface is covered by land? Write your answer in scientific notation.

$$\begin{aligned} & (5.1 \times 10^8) - (3.61 \times 10^8) = (5.1 - 3.61) \times 10^8 \\ &= 1.49 \times 10^8 \end{aligned}$$

The Earth's surface is covered by $1.49 \times 10^8 \text{ km}^2$ of land.

3. Approximately how many times greater is the amount of Earth's surface that is covered by water compared to the amount of Earth's surface that is covered by land?

$$\frac{3.61 \times 10^8}{1.49 \times 10^8} \approx 2.4$$

About 2.4 times more of the Earth's surface is covered by water than by land.

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