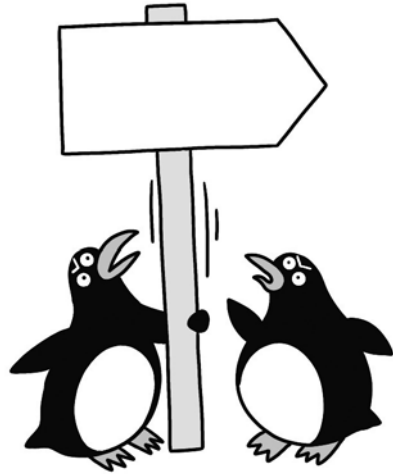


You'll also notice that most pages have **signposts** somewhere on them. These tell you where to find more information and nonsense about the thing you've just read, or something similar, or something **completely different** that probably shouldn't even be in this book. Like **angry penguins!** Who needs them in a book?



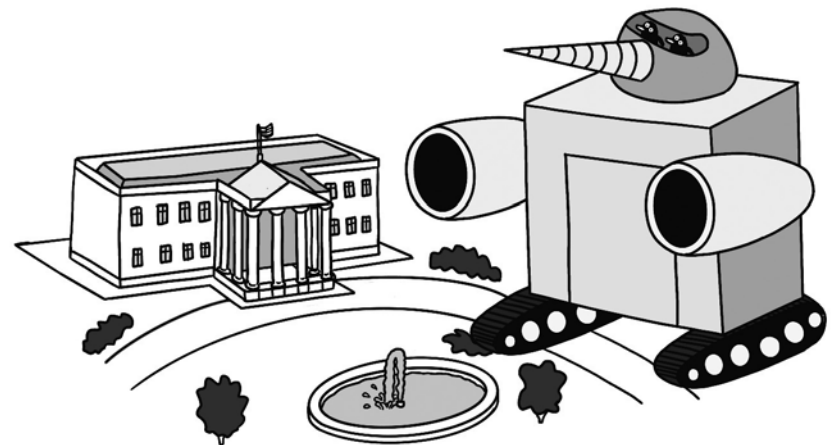
Follow the signposts if you want. Or ignore them. **Or lick them.** I don't care. I'm busy trying to save the planet. While you're reading this I'm probably chopping down thistles and pruning gooseberry bushes whilst singing weird songs to myself about munching on kale and making clothes out of bear poo.

A warning about facts

You have to be **careful** with facts. The thing with facts is that they are **not always true**. Lots of facts go out of date really quickly. For example, as I write this book, there are nearly 8 billion people in the world. By the time you read this book, that number might have changed. It might be bigger. It might be smaller. It'll probably be bigger.

If any of the facts in the book turn out not to be true anymore, don't blame me. I'm not **LYING**. That's just what happens with books!

Interestingly though, all of the fictional bits will still be true. All the stories, jokes, poems and nonsense will make just as much sense now as they will in the future, when angry penguins take over the world to get **revenge** on all the people who laughed at them in zoos.



Beginning page

Welcome to the beginning of the book.

That's right. All the other pages that you've just read didn't really count. They were just like the standing around bit at a party. Now you're at the bit where you get to fill your face with sparkle-brain cupcakes and then bounce off the walls like a bouncy ball on a bouncy castle in Bouncy Land.



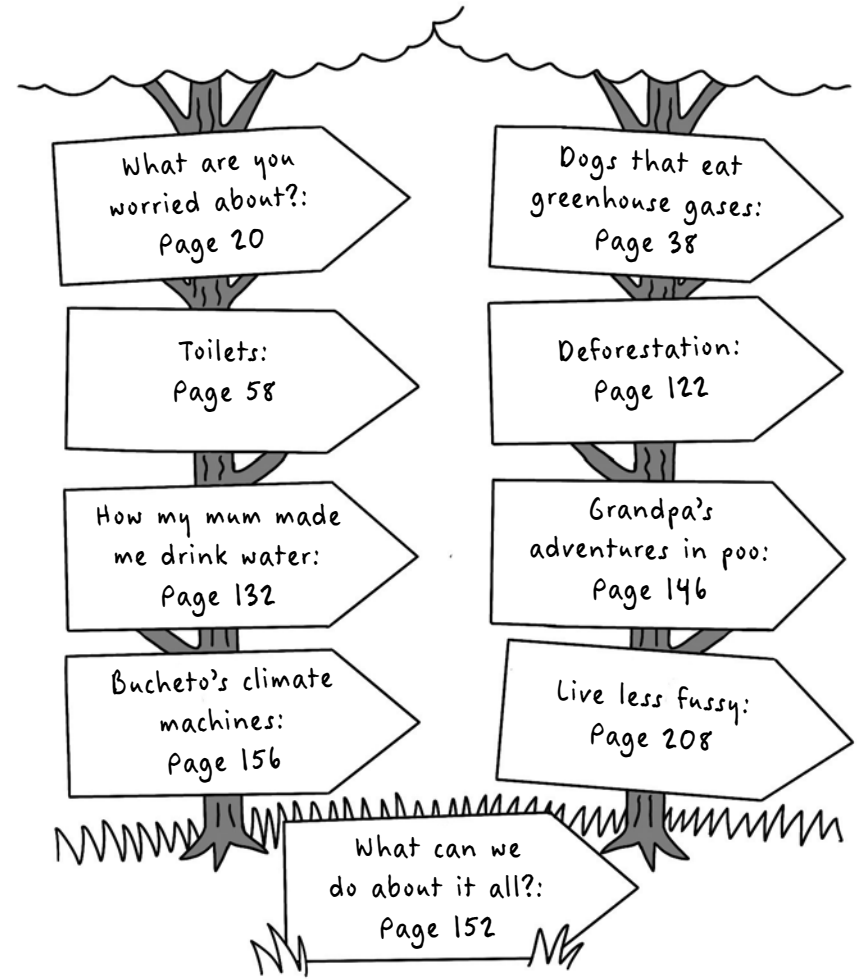
Remember you can read this book in **any order** you like. I don't care how you read it but if you ever want to let me know, please email me at james@i_dont_care_how_you_read_it.com

By the way, well done for picking up *this* book. There are plenty of books out there about things that aren't real.

But you have chosen **something real** and something that might be hard to deal with. Well done for being **brave**. I'm proud of you.



Look at all these signposts. Choose one to read first and let's start saving the planet!

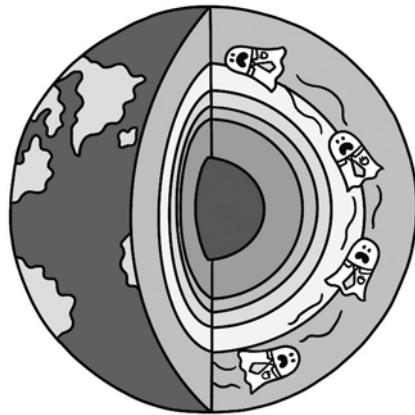


Some stuff about planet Earth

Planet Earth is the **third** planet from the Sun in what we call the solar system. It might not seem like it from where you're sitting, but the Earth is actually travelling really fast through space, orbiting the Sun once a year. The Earth is also spinning, and every time it spins around once, that's a day and a night. When the part of Earth you are on is facing the Sun, it is daytime and when you're facing the other way, it is night.

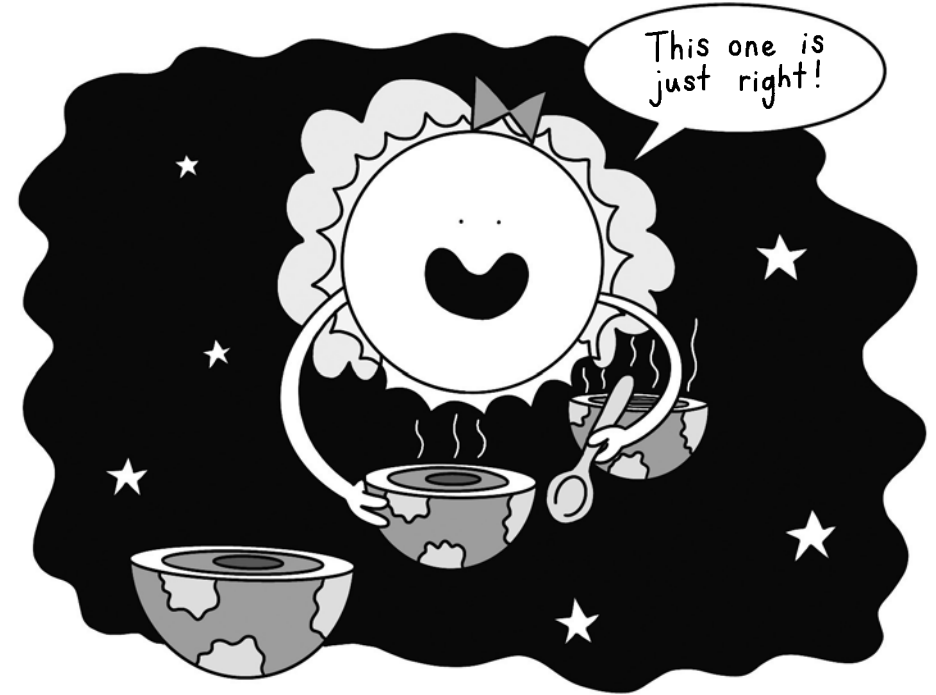
The Earth has a diameter of 12,756 kilometres along its middle and weighs nearly **6 billion trillion tonnes**.

Most of the Earth, of course, is the inside bit. That's made of rock, melted rock and the souls of supply teachers. The bit of Earth that we are interested in is the **surface**: the thin layer we live on and the **atmosphere** above it.



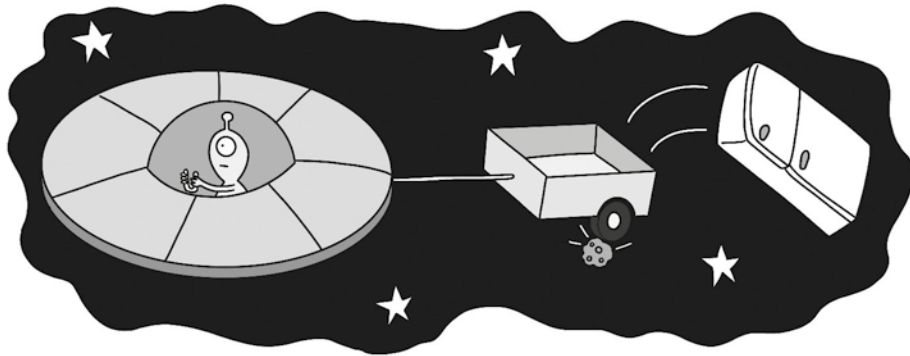
It is an absolute **miracle** that there is any life on Earth.

If the Earth were any closer to the Sun, it would be too hot to live here. If it were further away, it would be too cold.



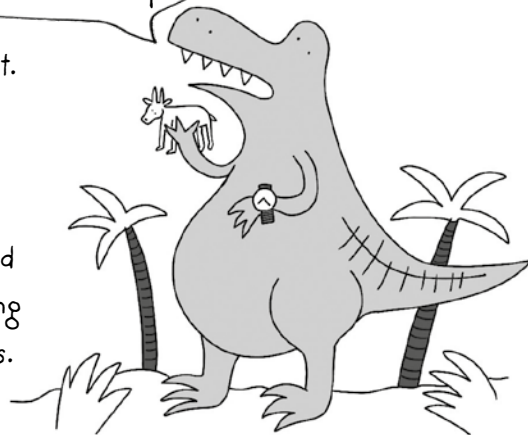
We're also really lucky that we have a **magnetic field**. This is an invisible barrier that protects us from all sorts of nasty cosmic energy (called radiation) that would otherwise laser-beam trees and make lemons explode.

We also rely on the existence of some of the other planets. Jupiter is so far away you need to catch three buses to get there, but because it's **so massive**, it does a great job of attracting objects that are flying through space. If Jupiter didn't exist, Earth would get hit by many more asteroids, meteorites and fridges that have been thrown out of spaceships by fly-tipping aliens.



Ugh, there are just NOT enough hours in the day!

The Moon is also really important. For one thing, its gravity has been causing the Earth to slow its spin ever so slightly. These days, the planet takes 24 hours to spin round but when the dinosaurs were moping about, it only took around 23 hours.



Also, without the Moon, the Earth would get out of control and start spinning randomly, and so the weather would go pretty wild. It would be a bit like being in a **washing machine**.



Do NOT get in the washing machine.

Most of Earth is covered in water so maybe it should be called planet Water instead.

