

## Spinning Around

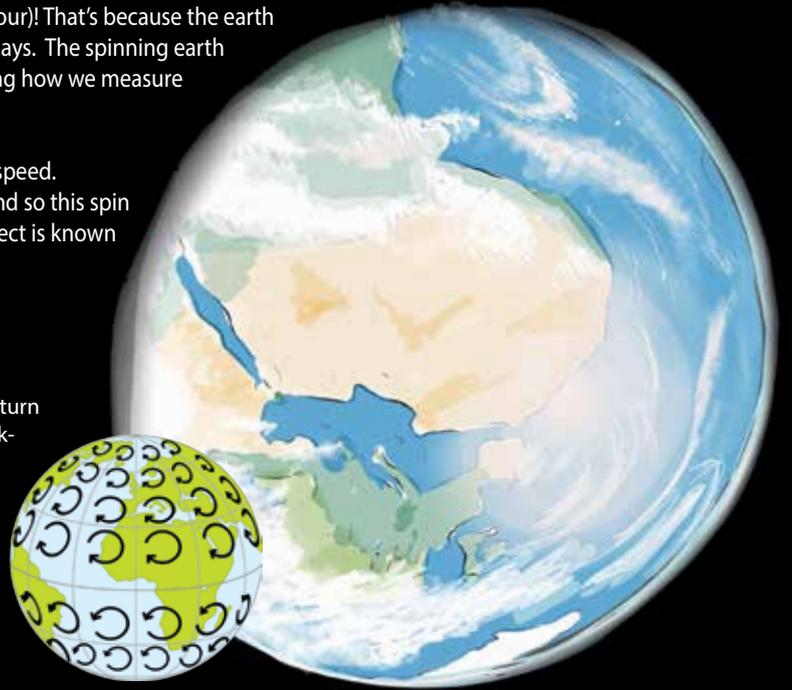
As you read this, you and everything around you is moving at an incredible speed. This is fastest at the equator, around 1,000 miles per hour (1,600 kilometres per hour)! That's because the earth is spinning around its axis as it orbits around the sun every 365 days. The spinning earth sets the pace of everything we do. It spins every 24 hours dictating how we measure time and giving us night and day.

We don't feel the effects of this as we are all moving at the same speed. However our atmosphere is not fixed to the ground like we are and so this spin has a huge effect on our weather and the ocean currents. This effect is known as the 'Coriolis Effect'

## The Coriolis Effect

As the earth spins, the air in the northern hemisphere is made to turn to the right which causes it to turn in right hand spirals (anti-clockwise). In the southern hemisphere the opposite happens and the air turns to the left, causing left hand spirals (clockwise). So storms in the North and South of the globe spin in opposite directions!

**Coriolis Myth:** *It is often said that the coriolis effect makes water spin down the drain in different directions in the North and South. This is not true as the force cannot act on such a small event as emptying the bath or flushing the loo!*



## Hurricanes, Cyclones and Typhoons - Storm Simulator

What's the difference between a hurricane, cyclone and a typhoon? There is no difference! These are the names that are given to big storms that start in different areas of the globe. A storm that starts in the Atlantic or North Pacific is called a 'hurricane'. A storm over the North West Pacific would be called a 'typhoon' and a 'cyclone' is a storm that starts over the South West Pacific.

**To see them in action, start your Geography ActiveLens app and point it at the map below.**

