**The Earth Is Not Flat — A Scientific Perspective**

Despite centuries of exploration, measurement, and global consensus, the belief that the Earth is flat persists in some circles. However, an overwhelming body of evidence from multiple disciplines — astronomy, physics, geology, and direct observation — demonstrates conclusively that the Earth is a sphere (more accurately, an oblate spheroid). Here are key lines of evidence:

**Photos from Space.** Since the 1960s, spacecraft and satellites have provided images of Earth from space showing a round planet. NASA, ESA, and other space agencies have captured live videos of Earth’s curvature and its rotation. These photos consistently show a round Earth from every angle.

**The Horizon and Ships Disappearing.** On a flat surface, a ship moving away should get smaller but remain fully visible. Instead, ships disappear hull-first, followed by the mast, due to the curvature of the Earth. This was observed as early as 350 BC by Aristotle and remains visible today with binoculars or a zoom lens.

**Time Zones and the Sun’s Movement.** Time zones exist because the Earth is round and rotates. If the Earth were flat, the Sun would rise and set simultaneously everywhere. Instead, the rotation causes daylight to move gradually across the globe, giving us different local times.

**Airplane Flight Paths.** Long-distance flight paths make sense only on a spherical Earth. For example, flights from North America to Asia often route over the Arctic because it’s the shortest path on a globe — a concept known as a great circle route.

**The Earth's Shadow on the Moon.** During a lunar eclipse, Earth casts a shadow on the Moon that is always curved. A flat object would not create a consistently round shadow. This observation dates back to ancient Greek astronomers.

**Gravitational Consistency.** Gravity pulls toward the center of mass. On a spherical Earth, this means "down" is toward the center from every point. On a flat Earth, gravity would pull at odd angles near the edges, causing obvious inconsistencies in how objects fall — which we do not observe.

**Satellite Orbits and GPS.** GPS systems rely on satellites orbiting the Earth. These satellites follow predictable curved paths only possible around a spherical body. A flat Earth would render modern navigation, satellite TV, and weather monitoring impossible.

**Why Pilots Don’t Constantly Adjust for Curvature.** Some flat Earth proponents argue that pilots should have to "dip the nose" of an airplane continually to follow Earth's curvature. In reality, airplanes are constantly adjusting their orientation based on gravity and the atmosphere.

An aircraft in level flight maintains constant altitude by balancing lift with gravity — and gravity always pulls toward the center of the Earth. This means that "level" flight naturally follows the curve of the Earth without the pilot manually adjusting pitch to match it. The gyroscopes in the plane’s attitude indicators and autopilot systems are also aligned to Earth's curvature and gravity, allowing seamless curved travel over the globe.

**Conclusion.** The idea of a flat Earth collapses under the weight of overwhelming scientific evidence. While skepticism is healthy, rejecting established science without plausible counter-evidence leads us away from understanding reality. From ancient observations to modern technology, the spherical nature of Earth is not just a theory — it is a measurable, observable fact.