

"Let's Learn About"

Oceans

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UNIT ONE - The Ocean

Welcome to the wonderful ocean! The study of the ocean is called **oceanography** and the scientists who do the research are called **oceanographers**.

Earth's oceans make up most of the planet. They are **HUGE** in comparison to the amount of land we have to live on. If we were to look under the ocean, we would quickly realize that there is more to these giant bodies of water than the few hundred feet we explore and use on a regular basis.

Where is the ocean floor, you might be wondering? Well, that depends where you are standing when you ask the question. If you are standing close to most beaches, you could dive down and see the ocean floor yourself, along with all the colorful and wonderful fish and sea life that lives on it.

But if you were out deep sea fishing with your grandpa, then the ocean floor could be as far as **20,000 feet** below you!

In order to make sense of the ocean **depths** (or deepness) the ocean has been divided into **zones**.

Study the chart and then do the activities for Unit One.

0 Feet

Sunlit Zone

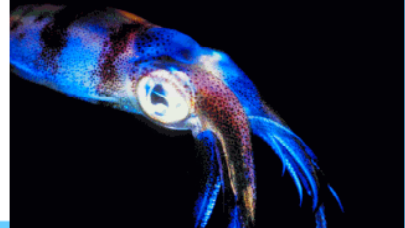
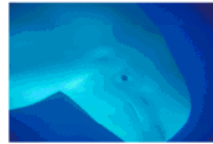
Most sea life lives here because the sun can shine through the water and provide plants for food.



450 Feet

Twilight Zone

The sun's light is very faint so there are few plants. The giant squid and deep diving whales inhabit this zone.



3300 Feet

Midnight Zone

Not much is known about the strange creatures that live near the bottom of the ocean. There is constant darkness here and the water is very cold. Very few creatures can withstand the pressure of the water at this depth.



13,200 Feet

Activity 1.1

Matching Vocabulary

Vocabulary is another word for "important words to remember!" You probably already know all the important words below because you just read about them, but play along all the same.

Directions: Match the vocabulary word on the left with the proper definition on the right. Put the correct letter on the blank.

Vocabulary Words

Definitions

1. _____ Depths

A. Person who studies the ocean

2. _____ Zones

B. The study of the ocean

3. _____ Oceanography

C. To be deep

4. _____ Oceanographer

D. Sections of ocean based on deepness

Activity 1.2

Alphabetical Order

Alphabetical order means to look at a list of words and then organize the list of words into ABC order.

Words that start with A go first, then B words, then C words...and you keep going through the alphabet.

Directions: Look at the first few letters of each vocabulary word, then list the words in ABC order.

Zones

Sunlit Zone

Oceanography

Depths

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



Activity 1.3

Name the Zone

Name which zone each of these fish live in.







UNIT TWO - One Big Ocean

Even though we have five oceans, (the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Indian, the Southern, and the Arctic) all the world's oceans are really connected. It is like we only have one giant ocean instead of these smaller ones.

So why do we need five different names? Well, having names for different parts of the world makes things easier. If we only had one world ocean and someone asked you where you caught that huge fish - how would you explain what part of the world you were in?

Naming the oceans makes things easier.

Water in the oceans makes up more than 2/3rds of our planet so it is no surprise that there are thousands of different life forms that use the ocean for **survival**. I bet the first thing you think of when you hear the word ocean is **fish**! And there are a lot of fish in the sea, but there are other forms of life down there as well, and all of them are important. For example, the ocean is home to sponges, crabs, whales and dolphins, seals and

walruses, polar bears and penguins, coral, jellyfish, and even turtles!

If it weren't for oceans life on earth would not be the way it is now. No one knows how it would look, but it would be very different.

You may be wondering what the difference is between a lake and an ocean. Well, for one thing an ocean is made up of salt water. **Salt** is a very important mineral for life. It helps regulate many things in your body and the bodies of other animals on the planet.

You cannot drink salt water, even though your body needs salt, because humans are required to drink fresh water. **Fresh water** is not salty and comes from lakes and rivers. The lakes and rivers get their water from rain and snow.

It might not make sense that one type of water is good for you and one type of water is bad, especially when salt helps your body work right, but when you get older and take more science classes you will understand.



Activity 2.1

Fill in the Blank

Find the correct word from the text above to complete the sentences. Use the words from the word bank.

Oceans cover more than _____ of the Earth's surface. Many different _____ need the oceans for _____. The oceans are made up of _____ water, which is very bad for drinking. _____ water comes from _____ and _____ and is not salty. Fresh water is good for drinking.

lakes fresh salt

rivers survival animals two thirds



Activity 2.2

True or False?

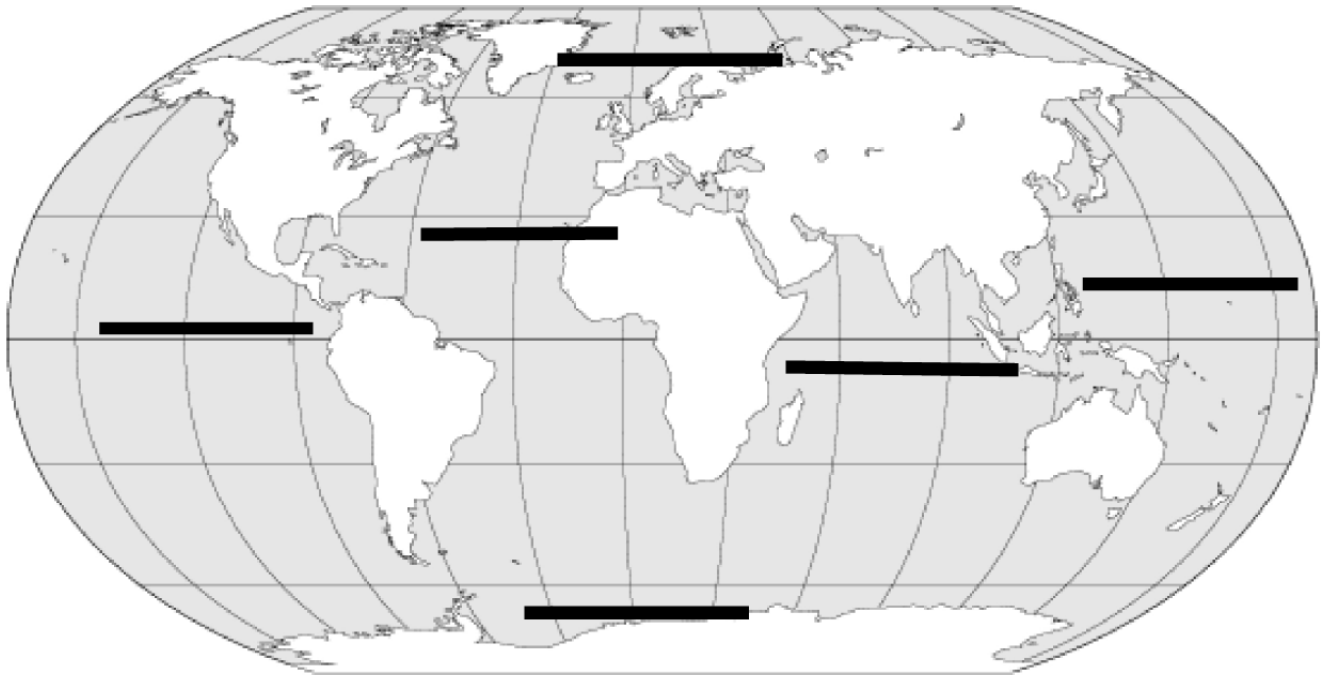
Put a T for true or an F for false in the blank next to the question.

1. _____ Salt water is good for certain body functions.
2. _____ Salt water is good to drink.
3. _____ Land covers more than two thirds of the Earth's surface.
4. _____ Dolphins and seals need the ocean to live.
5. _____ It is not important to divide the ocean up into smaller sections.
6. _____ The earth has 8 oceans.
7. _____ The Arctic is one of the oceans on Earth.
8. _____ The Earth really has one big ocean.
9. _____ Sponges live in the ocean.



Activity 2.3

Map It!



Here is a map of the world. Using an atlas or a globe, label the world's oceans. Use the word bank below for your answers. (You will have to use Pacific Ocean twice.)

Atlantic Ocean Pacific Ocean Indian Ocean
Arctic Ocean Southern Ocean

Why did you have to use the Pacific Ocean twice?