

Under the Sea

<p>Difficulties</p> 	<p>There is plenty of light at the surface, but below 200m it is almost completely dark. Water is heavy so going deep into the ocean is only possible using submarines. Temperatures also be very cold.</p>
<p>Near the Surface</p> 	<p>The majority of animals and plants in the ocean live within 100m of the surface. The ocean has a vast array of marine life from fish, porpoises, plankton, seals, sharks and many more varieties of life.</p>
<p>Bottom of the Ocean</p> 	<p>Due to the weight of the water and how dark it is, below 500m, there are some highly unusual fish and animals with shells. Minerals from underwater vents provide food for these creatures.</p>

Threats to the Oceans

<p>Climate Change</p> 	<p>Oceans help to shape an area's climate. Ocean currents bring heat from the equator to various parts of the world and warm water from the tropics can evaporate and bring rain to dry land. Global warming is currently threatening to change these patterns.</p>
<p>Pollution</p> 	<p>Plastic and rubbish is leaving land and ending up in the oceans. Sea-life is being found to have ingested vast quantities of plastic and it is becoming a serious environmental issue. Nuclear submarines have been left rotting in the Arctic Ocean and the Great Pacific garbage patch is a part of the ocean the size of Texas filled with rubbish which permanently remains there due to circulating currents!</p>
<p>Shipping</p> 	<p>Ships carry many of goods that people buy across the oceans. The oil, coal and iron ore that are carried by giant tankers can cause problems such as oil spills or there can be a loss of cargo when things go wrong.</p>
<p>Over Fishing</p> 	<p>Modern fishing techniques involve dragging long nets through the oceans to catch lots of fish. Much of the herring and cod around the Atlantic Ocean is being fished more than are breeding so stocks are low. Whaling around Antarctica means they are close to extinction.</p>

OCEANS AND SEAS

Oceans

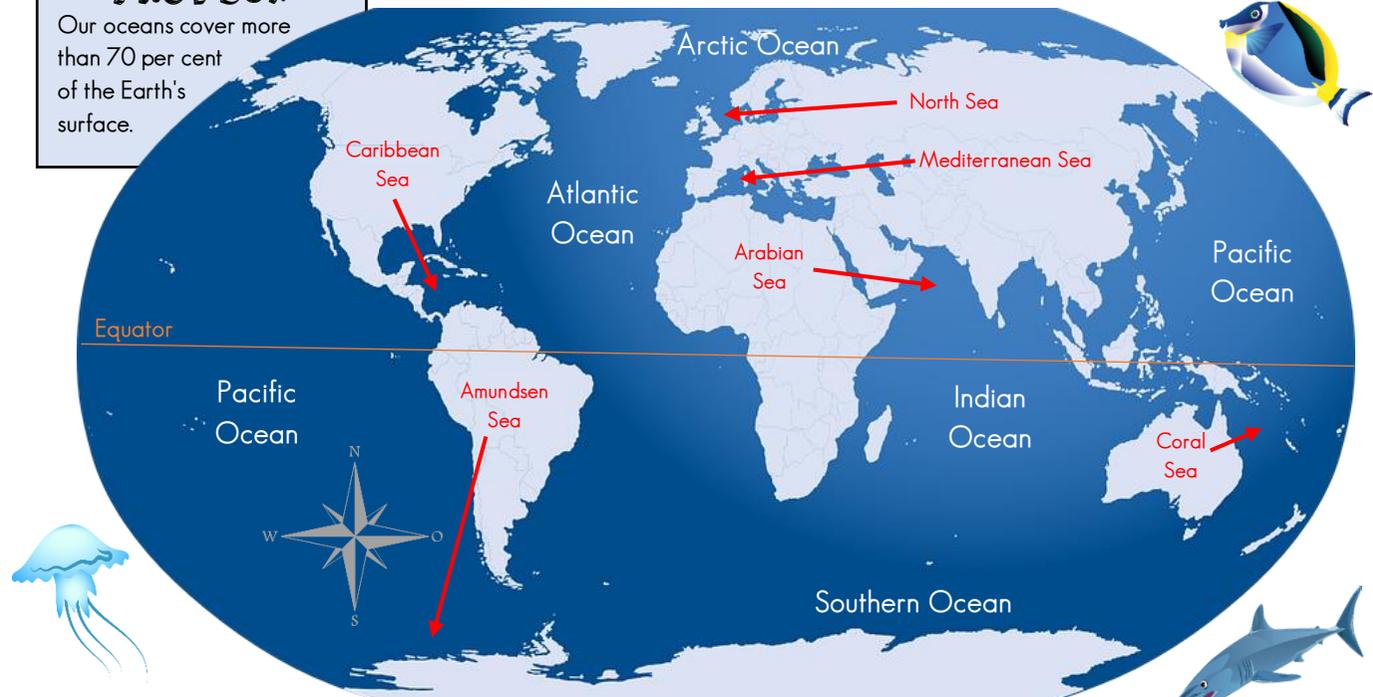
There are 5 main oceans on earth: Arctic, Atlantic, Pacific, Indian and Southern Oceans.

Seas

Around the oceans are areas of shallower water known as seas. Seas are still important habitats for fish and other animals. Humans have also utilised the resources in the sea by extracting oil, gas and minerals to use. The North Sea (between the U.K. and Scandinavia) has hundreds of oil and gas platforms and also a number of wind farms to help produce cleaner energy.

FACT BOX

Our oceans cover more than 70 per cent of the Earth's surface.



Key Vocabulary

minerals	salt, magnesium, gold, tin, titanium limestone and fresh water are extracted and used as natural resources
trench	depressions of the sea floor, narrow but very deep
ocean floor	also known as the seabed is the very bottom of the ocean
vent	a crack in the Earth's surface sending heat into the ocean
climate	long-term average weather of a particular area
equator	an imaginary line around the middle of a planet
global warming	long-term rise in the temperature of the Earth's climate
ocean currents	continuous, directed movement of sea water
tropics	region of the Earth surrounding the Equator
fish stocks	amount of fish left in a particular ocean
oil platform	large structure with facilities for well drilling to explore, extract, store, and process petroleum and natural gas
resort	accommodation for tourists which provides services
resources	naturally occurring resources can be renewable or non-renewable and are used in some way by humans
shore	the land along the edge of a sea, lake, or other large body of water
wind farm	group of wind turbines in the same location used to produce electricity

