

## S3 Oceans

Did you know that over 70% of the Earth's surface is covered in salt water? This major body of water is known as the Ocean. The Ocean is divided into five major oceans, which are all connected together. Did you know that 97% of Earth's water is in the oceans? Did you know that around 80% of the world's population live within 100km of an ocean? Keep reading to discover some facts about the world's major oceans.

### ***Pacific Ocean***

The largest of Earth's oceans takes up about 1/3 of the Earth's surface. It separates Asia and Australia from North and South America. It was the explorer Ferdinand Magellan who gave it its name. He called it "Mar Pacifico", which means Peaceful Sea in Portuguese. The deepest location on Earth is in the Pacific Ocean. It is called the Mariana Trench, and it reaches a depth of just over 11,000m.

### ***Atlantic Ocean***

The second largest ocean separates Europe and Africa from North and South America. It gets its name from Greek mythology, where it is known as the "Sea of Atlas". It is home to the Gulf Stream, a powerful warm current that brings water from the Gulf of Mexico up the eastern coast of the USA and into the Atlantic Ocean. The Gulf Stream has a big impact on the climate of the east coast of the USA and Western Europe.

### ***Indian Ocean***

The third largest (it covers about 20% of the Earth's surface) is also the warmest ocean. It lies south of India and Asia and separates East Africa from Australia. It is used as an important transport route for oil. Around 40% of the world's offshore oil production comes from the Indian Ocean.

### ***Arctic Ocean***

This is the smallest and shallowest ocean. It is in the northern part of Earth, mostly around the North Pole. Ice covers the Arctic for a good part of the year, and it is common for a lot of fresh water to enter the Arctic when ice melts in warmer months.

### ***Southern Ocean***

This is the second smallest ocean. It covers around 6% of the Earth's surface. It is also the youngest ocean, though it is still around 30 million years old. It formed when South America and Antarctica moved apart.