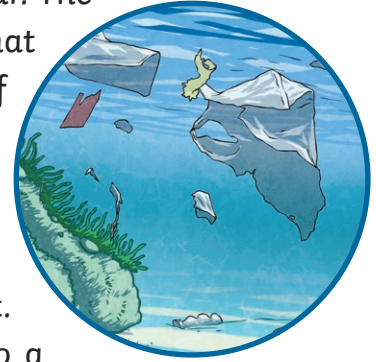# World Oceans Day

What Is World Oceans Day?

World Ocean's Day is celebrated on the 8th June every year. The purpose of the day is to inform people about the impact that human actions have on the ocean and the importance of finding ways to conserve and protect the ocean.

What is an Ocean?

Oceans cover over 70% of the Earth's surface. They contain around 96% of all the water on the planet. Oceans are the world's largest habitat and are home to a wide variety of creatures and living things. There are 5 oceans on Earth. They are:

- the Pacific
- the Atlantic
- the Arctic
- the Indian
- the Southern

One of the ocean's most important roles on Earth is to soak up energy in the form of heat and distribute it evenly throughout the Earth. It also helps to soak up carbon dioxide.

What Is Happening to Our Oceans?

Increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the ocean has led to an increase in the acidity in the ocean. Many sea creatures cannot adapt to this change and therefore die.

Sea temperatures are rising with some areas of the ocean seeing a temperature rise of 2°C in the last one hundred years. This causes living things, such as coral, to die.

Pollution is causing major damage to oceans. Oil spills, fertilisers from fields and farms, and litter from land all pollute our oceans. This pollution kills marine life and damages plant life.

One of the other biggest problems facing the oceans of the world is overfishing. This means too many sea creatures are being caught in relation to the number that are born. Some species of sea creatures are in danger of becoming extinct because of it and the balance of the ocean is under threat.

World Oceans Day 2020

Each year, World Oceans Day has a different theme. This year, the theme is 'Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean'. It focuses on ideas and innovations that will help protect the ocean and all life that depends on it. It will highlight technological advances and scientific research that will help to protect the ocean and sustain it for the future. Scientists and environmentalists are trying to find innovative ways to clear up the plastic and chemicals from our oceans. This is a big task as our oceans are sadly littered with plastic which is dangerous for marine life. Other innovations include finding ways to reuse plastic so that it does not end up in the ocean. For example, in some countries, plastic is being used to make new roads instead of concrete.

What Can We Do to Care for Our Oceans?

We can all play our part in caring for the ocean. We can:

- reduce our carbon footprint by using the car less and walking or cycling more;

- use less plastic so it doesn't end up in the ocean;

- go on organised beach cleans (if you live near the beach);

- learn more about charities and innovations that look after the oceans.

Questions

1. When is World Oceans Day? Tick one.

   ○ 8th July

   ○ 5th June

   ○ 8th June

   ○ 8th January

2. Which of the following is NOT an ocean? Tick one.

   ○ Pacific

   ○ Northern

   ○ Atlantic

   ○ Southern

3. Find and copy **two** words that have a similar meaning to 'absorb'.

   _____

4. Explain in your own words why it is important to look after our oceans. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

   _____

   _____

   _____

5. What is happening to the temperature of the sea?

   _____

6. What is the 2020 World Oceans Day theme?

   _____

7. Explain in your own words what the word 'innovation' means. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

   _____

   _____

   _____

8. Describe **two** ways in which, according to the text, we can all help to care for our oceans.

_____

_____

_____