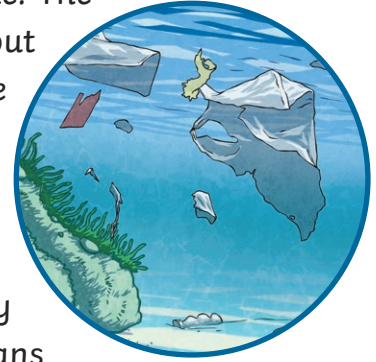


World Oceans Day

What Is It?

World Oceans Day is celebrated annually on the 8th June. The purpose of the day is to inform and educate people about the negative impact that human actions have on the ocean and the importance of finding ways to conserve, protect and sustain the ocean for the future.



Oceans

Oceans cover over 70% of the Earth's surface and 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:

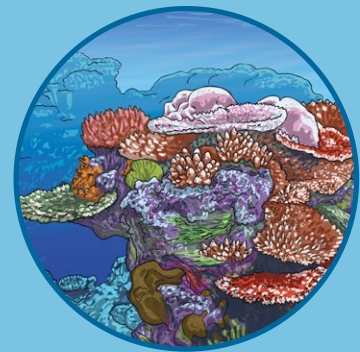
- the Pacific
- the Atlantic
- the Arctic
- the Indian
- the Southern



The oceans play a major role in everyday life all around the globe. They provide a majority of the oxygen that we breathe, and many people consider them to be the lungs of our planet. Another of the ocean's important roles is to soak up energy in the form of heat and distribute it evenly throughout the Earth. It also helps to absorb about one-quarter of the carbon dioxide (CO²) that we humans create when we burn fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas.

Did You Know...?

The Great Barrier Reef in the Pacific Ocean can be seen from the Moon! It is one of the planet's richest ocean habitats and is home to more than 1,500 species of fish, 134 species of sharks and rays and more than 30 species of vulnerable marine mammals.



What Is Happening to Our Oceans?

As a result of human action, our oceans are struggling to function as they should. 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 from tankers, fertilisers from agriculture 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'. This year's theme focuses on ideas and innovations that will help protect the ocean and all life that depends on it. It will highlight technological advances, scientific research and ground-breaking projects that will help to protect the ocean and sustain it for the future. Scientists and environmentalists are trying to find innovative ways to remove the plastic and chemicals from our oceans. This is a huge task as our oceans are sadly littered with plastic which is dangerous for marine life. Other innovations include finding ways to reuse plastic to prevent it from ending up in the ocean. For example, in some countries, plastic is being used to make new products such as roads, clothes and even mattresses!

What Can We Do?

Although large-scale innovations and improvements are needed to clean up the oceans, we can all play our part in caring for it. 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 and recycle more;
- go on organised beach cleans to collect and recycle plastic;
- and support charities and innovations that look after the oceans.

Questions

1. How often does World Oceans Day happen? Tick one.

- once a month
- once a year
- once a week
- every day

2. In your own words, explain what the purpose of World Oceans Day is.

3. Name the 5 oceans of the world.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

4. **...many people consider them to be the lungs of our planet.**

What does this mean?

5. What gas does the ocean absorb? Tick one.

- oxygen
- nitrogen
- hydrogen
- carbon dioxide

6. Find and copy one word which is similar in meaning to 'defenceless'.

7. Describe **two** ways in which our oceans become polluted.

8. Explain in your own words what the 2020 World Oceans Day theme, Innovation for a Sustained Ocean, means.

9. According to the text, what is one way in which people can reduce their carbon footprint.
