

Parent Guide



@twinklparents

We're excited to share this activity with you. If you are interested in finding more exciting, fun and interesting activities for you and your children, then check out these links to different areas of the [Twinkl Parents](#) website.

games



crafts



puzzles



experiments



word searches



What is this resource and how do I use it?

Learn all about the seas and oceans of the world with this reading comprehension designed especially for children aged 9 or 10 years old. Once you have learned all the fascinating facts, answer the questions using your new knowledge. The answers are included at the end so that you can check your work.

What skills does this practise?

Reading Comprehension

Inference

Geography

Further Activity Ideas and Suggestions

Continue the ocean-themed fun with this exciting **activity booklet**, or get crafty with these instructions to make your own **scuba diver oxygen tank** or **marine life sculpture**. If you're looking for more reading activities, check out our **Year 5 Mixed Reading Comprehension** pack.

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Seas and Oceans

Reading Comprehension

Ages
9 - 10

Did you know planet Earth consists of around 71% water? Almost 98% of that water is contained in the oceans and seas, with the rest making up rivers and lakes. This water also provides between 50% and 80% of our oxygen. Unfortunately, the health of our oceans is at risk. Read on to find out more about the oceans and seas and the risks they face.

Oceans

An ocean is a large, continuous body of saline (salt) water. Technically, there is only one global ocean which stretches around the entire planet and holds around 352 quintillion gallons of water. Geographers and scientists have split this into five smaller oceans, like this:



The **Atlantic Ocean** is an ocean that covers an area of around 106 million km² between Europe and Africa to the east and North and South America to the west. It is so large that it is often divided into the North Atlantic and the South Atlantic, which have their own currents affecting the world's weather. The Atlantic Ocean also includes the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a huge underwater mountain range.

The **Pacific Ocean** is the world's largest ocean, covering over 165 million km² between Asia to the west and North and South America to the east. It is home to the Mariana

Trench, the deepest point on the planet. This ocean is so big, it is larger than all the continents of the world put together. Although named after the word pacify, meaning peaceful, the Pacific Ocean stirs up some violent weather events, including hurricanes and tsunamis caused by underwater volcanoes.

The third largest ocean, the **Indian Ocean**, lies to the south of the Earth, with Asia to the north, Africa to the west and Australasia (sometimes known as Oceania) to the east. The Indian Ocean is home to the Suez Canal, an important humanly-constructed waterway that connects Europe and Asia. The Indian Ocean has fewer islands than the Atlantic and Pacific and is partially landlocked to the north.

The **Arctic Ocean**, surrounding the North Pole, is the shallowest and smallest ocean in the world. Most of this ocean is covered in sea ice, especially in winter. This ocean has ports in Russia, Norway, Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Iceland. Despite being the smallest ocean, the Arctic Ocean is one and a half times the size of the United States of America.

The **Southern Ocean**, sometimes known as the Antarctic Ocean, is the most southern ocean. It surrounds Antarctica and the South Pole. There are often heavy winds and icebergs, making travel difficult. The Southern Ocean is home to unique animals such as the emperor penguin and the blue whale.

Seas

A sea is a small section of the ocean, usually found where the ocean meets the land. The largest sea in the world is the Mediterranean Sea in the Atlantic Ocean. You might also have heard of the Caribbean Sea, which, as well as being home to many tropical islands, is one of the largest oil production areas in the world. One of the most well-known 'seas' is the Dead Sea, which is actually a lake! It has such a high percentage of salt in its water that you can float on the surface.

Dangers

The world's seas and oceans face many dangers today. Here are a few:

- Rising sea levels due to global warming
- Oil spills
- Pollution
- Air pollution
- Overfishing

Fun Facts

- The world's longest mountain range, the Mid-Ocean Ridge, is almost completely submerged.
- Approximately 94% of all species in the world live underwater.
- The Pacific Ocean has more islands than any other ocean with around 25,000.



Reading Comprehension Questions

Ages
9 - 10

1. Using what you have read, order the oceans from **smallest** to **largest** - 1 being the smallest and 5 being the largest.

Atlantic Ocean

Pacific Ocean

Indian Ocean

Arctic Ocean

Southern Ocean

2. The world's longest mountain range, the Mid-Ocean Ridge, is almost completely submerged.

What does the word '**submerged**' mean in this sentence?

3. Which ocean is larger than all the continents combined?

4. Where might you find emperor penguins?

5. What causes tsunamis in the Pacific Ocean?

6. Why do you think the Suez Canal is so important?

7. What do you think will happen if the sea levels continue to rise?

8. Why do you think overfishing is bad for the ocean?

9. What do you think people could do to help protect the ocean?

10. In one sentence, summarise the key points of the text.

1. Using what you have read, order the oceans from **smallest** to **largest** - 1 being the smallest and 5 being the largest.

Atlantic Ocean	4	Pacific Ocean	5	Indian Ocean	3
Arctic Ocean	1	Southern Ocean	2		

2. The world's longest mountain range, the Mid-Ocean Ridge, is almost completely submerged.

What does the word 'submerged' mean in this sentence?

Underwater

3. Which ocean is larger than all the continents combined?

The Pacific Ocean

4. Where might you find emperor penguins?

The Southern Ocean

5. What causes tsunamis in the Pacific Ocean?

Underwater volcanoes

6. Why do you think the Suez Canal is so important?

Child's own answer, such as - it connects Europe and Asia, it makes travelling easier, it makes trading easier etc

7. What do you think will happen if the sea levels continue to rise?

Child's own answer, such as - there will be flooding, coastal homes will get destroyed etc

8. Why do you think overfishing is bad for the ocean?

Child's own answer, such as - species of fish could go extinct, fishing equipment could pollute the ocean etc

9. What do you think people could do to help protect the ocean?

Child's own answer, such as - keep plastic out of the ocean, eat less fish, take care of the environment to reduce global warming etc

10. In one sentence, summarise the key points of the text.

Child's own answer, mentioning the five oceans, what a sea is and the dangers the oceans face.

***Disclaimer:** We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.