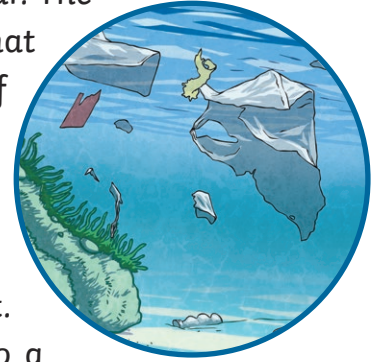


# World Oceans Day

## What Is World Oceans Day?

World Ocean's Day is celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

- 8<sup>th</sup> July
- 5<sup>th</sup> June
- 8<sup>th</sup> June
- 8<sup>th</sup> 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'.

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

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

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6. What is the 2020 World Oceans Day theme?

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

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

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# Answers

1. When is World Oceans Day? Tick one.

- 8<sup>th</sup> July
- 5<sup>th</sup> June
- 8<sup>th</sup> June**
- 8<sup>th</sup> 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'.

**soaks up**

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

**Pupils' own responses, such as: It is important to look after our oceans because it covers over 70% of the Earth's surface and contains around 96% of all the water on the planet. It is also home to a wide variety of creatures and living things.**

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

**it is rising/increasing**

6. What is the 2020 World Oceans Day theme?

**Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean**

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

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The word innovation means coming up with new ways and ideas to solve a problem. For example, in the text it says that scientists are using plastic to make new things such as roads so that it doesn't end up in the ocean.**

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

**Pupils' own responses, such as: According to the text, we can all help our oceans by:**

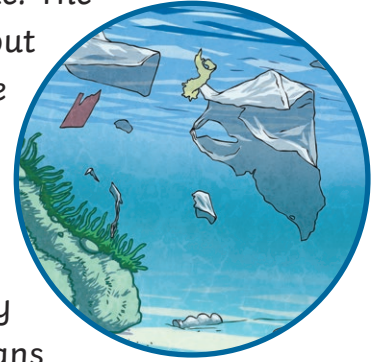
**Accept two of the following:**

- **reducing our carbon footprint by using the car less**
- **using less plastic**
- **taking part in beach cleans**
- **learning about charities and innovations that look after the ocean**

# World Oceans Day

## What Is It?

World Oceans Day is celebrated annually on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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:

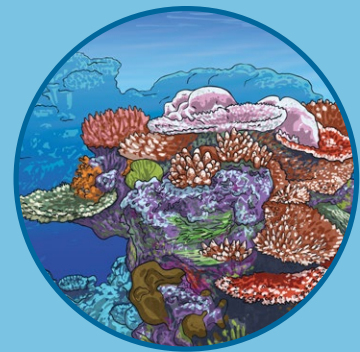
- the Pacific
- the Atlantic
- the Arctic
- the Indian
- the Southern



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 (CO<sup>2</sup>) 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.

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3. Name the 5 oceans of the world.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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

What does this mean?

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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'.

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

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

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

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# Answers

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.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The purpose of World Oceans Day is to raise awareness of the importance of our oceans and what they do for us. It is also to highlight the negative affect that humans have on the ocean and that we need to do more to look after it so that it is protected for the future.**

3. Name the 5 oceans of the world.

- **Pacific**
- **Atlantic**
- **Arctic**
- **Indian**
- **Southern**

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

What does this mean?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that 'many people consider them to be the lungs of the planet' means that the oceans help the Earth to breathe because they provide the majority of the oxygen that we breathe and therefore keep us alive.**

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'.

**vulnerable**

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

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Two ways in which our oceans become polluted are...**

**Accept any two of the following:**

- **oil spills from tankers**
- **fertilisers from farms**
- **litter from land**

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

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that 'Innovation for a Sustained Ocean' means that we need to find new ways to protect and care for the ocean so that the ocean, and all the living things that live within it, will still be here in the future.**

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

**The text says people can reduce their carbon footprint by using the car less.**

# World Oceans Day

In 1992, the Canadian government first proposed setting up a World Ocean Day during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The United Nations (UN) officially recognised 8<sup>th</sup> June as World Oceans Day in December 2008. The objective of the day then and now is to raise awareness of the vital importance of our oceans and the role they play in sustaining a healthy planet. It also aims to inform and educate people about the negative impact that human actions have on the ocean and the importance of finding ways in which to conserve, protect and sustain the ocean for the future.

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 organisms. There are 5 oceans on Earth: the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Arctic, the Indian and the Southern.

## Interesting Fact

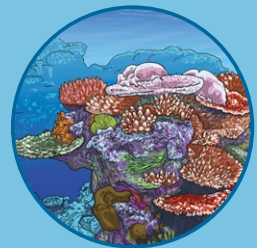
Covering around 30% of the Earth's surface, the Pacific Ocean is Earth's largest ocean. The name 'Pacific Ocean' means 'peaceful sea' in Latin.



Although largely unexplored, the oceans play a major role in everyday life all around the globe. They provide about 70% 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 (CO<sup>2</sup>) that we humans create when we burn fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas.

## Did You Know...?

The Great Barrier Reef, which is in the Pacific Ocean and measures around 2,600km, is visible 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.



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, both plastic and chemical, 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. As countries increasingly view the ocean as a potential source of economic growth, governments must address the challenge of balancing the financial benefits of the ocean while protecting it for the future.

The focus of World Oceans Day changes each year and this year, the theme is 'Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean'. This theme focuses on ideas and innovations that will help protect the ocean and all life that depend on it. It will highlight technological advances, scientific research and solutions-focused programmes that will help to protect the ocean and sustain it for the future. Scientists and environmentalists are trying to find innovative ways to stem the flow of plastics into the ocean and are developing holistic waste management systems. Other innovations include finding ways to repurpose plastic waste 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!

Although governments, businesses and multinational organisations are mostly responsible for making progress towards ocean sustainability, we can all play our part in caring for it. We can all reduce our carbon footprint by using the car less and walking or cycling more. We can strive to use less plastic and recycle more. If living near the coast, we can go on organised beach cleans, collecting and recycling plastic waste. We can research and support charities and innovations that aim to raise awareness of about the importance of caring for our oceans.



# Questions

1. Why do you think it took 16 years for the UN to recognise World Oceans Day?

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2. Find and copy one word that is a synonym for 'crucial'.

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3. How much of the Earth's water is contained in oceans? Tick one.

- 70%
- 50%
- 96%
- 69%

4. Which ocean means peaceful sea in Latin?

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5. **Although largely unexplored...**

What does the subordinate clause tell us about the ocean?

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6. What is created when we burn fossil fuels? Tick one.

- oxygen
- carbon dioxide
- nitrogen
- carbon monoxide

7. What large habitat is in the Pacific Ocean?

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8. Explain why there is more carbon dioxide in the ocean. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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9. Explain why overfishing is a problem and why it is a difficult problem to solve.

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10. Who do you think is most responsible for caring for the oceans and why? Explain your answer fully using evidence from the text to support your answer.

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# Questions

1. Why do you think it took 16 years for the UN to recognise World Oceans Day?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that it took 16 years for the UN to recognise World Oceans Day because the oceans have slowly become more and more polluted since 1992 and in 2008, the UN could not ignore the problem any longer.**

2. Find and copy one word that is a synonym for 'crucial'.

**vital**

3. How much of the Earth's water is contained in oceans? Tick one.

- 70%
- 50%
- 96%**
- 69%

4. Which ocean means peaceful sea in Latin?

**the Pacific**

5. **Although largely unexplored...**

What does the subordinate clause tell us about the ocean?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The subordinate clause, 'Although largely unexplored...' tells us that a large part of the ocean remains undiscovered and that we don't actually know much about what is in the ocean.**

6. What is created when we burn fossil fuels? Tick one.

- oxygen
- carbon dioxide**
- nitrogen
- carbon monoxide

7. What large habitat is in the Pacific Ocean?

**The large habitat in the Pacific Ocean is the Great Barrier Reef.**

8. Explain why there is more carbon dioxide in the ocean. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: There is more carbon dioxide in the ocean because it says in the text that humans create it when they burn fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas. We are more polluted and are burning more fuels than ever which the ocean then absorbs to help the planet to breathe.**



9. Explain why overfishing is a problem and why it is a difficult problem to solve.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Overfishing is a problem because more fish are being caught than being born which means that some species of fish are in danger of becoming extinct. It is a difficult problem to solve because some people need to fish to make a living and to help their country's economy grow but this can be at the expense of the ocean and the creatures that live within it.**

10. Who do you think is most responsible for caring for the oceans and why? Explain your answer fully using evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that governments are the most responsible for caring for the oceans. This is because they have the power and the money to fund the research and innovations that are needed to clean up the oceans. They also have the power to stop things such as overfishing or factories from polluting the ocean.**