

Build THE Change

FACT SHEET

INTO THE OCEANS



GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

There are 5 oceans that cover over 70% of the Earth's surface.



97% of the world's water is held in the oceans.⁽³⁾

All of these oceans are connected, meaning that animals can move freely between them.

AMAZING OCEANS



The ocean is an amazing ecosystem and is important for many reasons.

- The ocean provides many of the services that help people to survive, including **water, weather, food and oxygen**.⁽⁴⁾
- The ocean helps the Earth's climate by **soaking up heat and carbon dioxide**, which can reduce the impacts of climate change.⁽⁵⁾
- The different locations and conditions create **unique habitats** which are home to lots of wonderful wildlife. This includes coral reefs, deep ocean vents and seagrass meadows.

WILDLIFE



CLOWN FISH



SEA TURTLE



OCTOPUS



FRILLED SHARK



BLUE WHALE



ZOOPLANKTON

I can change the colour of my entire body in just three-tenths of a second!

DID YOU KNOW?

I live deep in the ocean, around 5,000 feet down.⁽³⁾

WILDLIFE IN THE BIG BLUE

Millions of species of all shapes and sizes live in our oceans. Plants, such as **seaweed, algae and phytoplankton** provide food for the shoals of fish that crowd coral reefs.

Corals are animals that look and behave more like plants, using special algae to make themselves food from sunlight and creating homes for lots of animals.

The deep oceans house weird and wonderful creatures that have adapted to exist in the dark, such as incredible **fish that glow in the dark**.

Turtles, dolphins, sharks and whales journey across the oceans in search of food and breeding sites. You can see some pictures of the amazing species that live in our oceans above.



How far? Sea turtles travel thousands of miles, but usually return to the same beach they hatched on to lay their own clutch of eggs.

HOW ARE THINGS CHANGING?

Oceans are under threat from human activity. Some of the key threats are:

- **Climate change** This is causing sea levels to rise and oceans to get warmer (in 2018 the warmest ocean temperature ever was recorded). This affects the services that humans depend on, particularly the weather. Rising sea levels are also washing away the beaches that sea turtles nest on.
- **Overfishing** This puts fish and other species under huge pressure, as species are taken more quickly than they can regenerate.
- **Pollution** Oceans are connected - this is important as it means that animals can move between them, but so can pollution. Turtles and dolphins often get tangled in fishing nets that have been left behind, while fishing and tourist boats can damage habitats when they drop their anchors.⁽³⁾

DID YOU KNOW?

The resources that oceans provide are worth nearly 3 trillion US dollars a year!⁽⁴⁾



Over 80% of the world's oceans haven't been explored yet, which means there could be thousands of species that haven't been discovered yet!⁽³⁾



More than 3 billion people across the world rely on the species, services and habitats that the oceans provide.⁽⁴⁾



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Scientists and conservationists around the world are acting to protect our oceans. Many people continue to study the impacts that climate change and humans are having, to figure out how best we can help.

This includes:

Monitoring the resources we use to prevent us using too much.

WORKING TOGETHER

Governments working together to reduce the impacts of climate change and prevent rising temperatures and emissions.

PROTECTION

Creating laws to protect oceans and wildlife, including protections for coral reefs, mangrove forests and breeding locations.⁽⁴⁾

GREEN ACTIONS

Encouraging people to play a part in reducing global warming, taking actions like

- using energy saving light bulbs,
- reduce, reuse and recycling waste,
- traveling on a bike or walking rather than use the car.

