



## Fun Facts About The Sea

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The global body of water tends to be called the “seven seas” and is made up of around 50 different water formations. Most commonly, we know the Arctic, the North Atlantic, the South Atlantic, the North Pacific, the South Pacific, the Indian and the Southern. Together, these oceans and seas cover more than 70% of the Earth’s surface and around 94% of Earth’s living species come from and live in these oceans.

The largest body of water is the Pacific Ocean, meaning “peaceful sea” in Latin, which covers around 63 million square miles and has around 25,000 islands, that’s around 30% of planet Earth’s surface. The deepest place is the Mariana Trench, which measures 11km under sea level. Recently, the third person ever reached the bottom of this trench to record the world’s deepest dive, meaning more people have set foot on the moon than reached the bottom of the Mariana Trench. Unfortunately, on the most recent dive, a plastic bag was found at the very bottom, proving just how much damage we’re doing to our oceans.

Underwater can be a magical place, there are so many secrets hidden away, such as shipwrecks and unearthed treasures as well as living creatures that we have no idea about. It’s suggested that we have only discovered and mapped around 5% of what the seas and oceans have to offer. Some of the most beautiful secrets include the 1,400 mile long Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Northern Red Sea in Asia/Africa and the ancient city of Heracleion in Egypt.

Unfortunately our seas and oceans are being destroyed. Recent studies suggest only 13% of our seas have been left unaffected by our human ways. Damage includes excessive fishing, destruction of sea habitats for building, drilling or mining, carbon, oil and chemical pollution as well plastic pollution. Although it’s impossible to know for certain, it’s predicted there’s around 5.25 trillion micro and macro pieces of plastic floating around. The most infamous polluted area is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, an 1.6 million square kilometre area of marine debris.

It's essential that we look after our planet's water, after all, they produce around 70% of the oxygen that we breathe.

It's estimated there are just less than 230,000 known species in our ocean with many more undiscovered. Marine biologists, scientists and oceanographers are working together to provide us with a deeper understanding of what's beneath our waters. Some of the most recent discoveries include the tree-spider crab, a comb jelly and marine snails.

Did you know ...

- 1) A electric eel can discharge upto 860 volts of electricity
- 2) An octopus has three hearts and its blood is blue
- 3) Male seahorses carry the babies and give birth
- 4) Lobsters can regrow an eye or an arm
- 5) The Antarctic blue whale is the biggest animal on our planet

#### **Resources**

- <https://www.trafalgar.com/real-word/10-unbelievable-facts-ocean/>
- <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/general-geography/ocean-facts/>
- <https://www.lolwot.com/20-hidden-secrets-of-the-deep-blue-sea/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jul/26/just-13-of-global-oceans-undamaged-by-humanity-research-reveals>
- <https://www.condorferries.co.uk/plastic-in-the-ocean-statistics>