

OUR OCEAN

Dive into 10 facts

1. The oceans occupy nearly 71% of our planet's surface
2. The oceans provide 99 percent of the Earth's living space, the largest space in our universe known to be inhabited by living organisms
3. 90% of this habitat exists in the deep sea known as the abyss
4. Less than 10% of this living space has been explored by humans
5. The longest continuous mountain chain known to exist in the Universe resides in the ocean at more than 40,000 miles long
6. The Antarctic ice sheet that forms and melts over the ocean each year is nearly twice the size of the United States
7. Water pressure at the deepest point in the ocean is more than 8 tons per square inch, the equivalent of one person trying to hold 50 jumbo jets.
8. The Gulf Stream off the Atlantic seaboard of the United States flows at a rate nearly 300 times faster than the typical flow of the Amazon river, the world's largest river
9. The Great Barrier Reef, measuring 1,243 miles, is the largest living structure on Earth. It can be seen from the Moon.
10. The average temperature of the oceans is 2°C, about 39°F

Just keep swimming into more facts

Coastlines

The total length of the world's coastlines is about 315,000 miles, enough to circle the equator 12 times.

As coastal zones become more and more crowded, the quality of coastal water will suffer, the wildlife will be displaced, and the shorelines will erode. 60% of the Pacific and 35% of the Atlantic Coast shoreline are eroding at a rate of a meter every year.

More than half the world's population lives within a 100 km or 60 miles distance from the coast. This is more than 2.7 billion people. Rapid urbanization will lead to more coastal mega-cities containing 10 million or more people. By the end of the millennium 13 out of 15 of the world's largest cities will be located on or near the coast.

Reefs

Over 60% of the world's coral reefs are threatened as a result of pollution, sedimentation and bleaching due to rising water temperatures caused by global warming. Global Coral Monitoring Network (GCRMN) states that currently 27% of all coral reef worldwide has disappeared and around 2050 only 30% will be left.

Volcanic Activity

90% of all volcanic activity on Earth occurs in the ocean. The largest known concentration of active volcanoes (approximately 1,133) on the sea floor is located in the South Pacific

Ice

Antarctica has as much ice as the Atlantic Ocean has water.

The Arctic produces 10,000 to 50,000 icebergs annually. The amount produced in the Antarctic regions is inestimable. Icebergs normally have a four-year life-span; they begin entering shipping lanes after about three years.

Oil

Oil is one of the ocean's greatest resources. It gives us heat for our homes, endless consumer products, and the ability to run the engines of cars, planes, and boats for auto transport all over the world. Nearly one-third of the world's oil comes from offshore fields in our oceans which, as we've seen can have devastating effects on our ocean's ecosystems. The transport of ocean oil from the Arabian Gulf, The North Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico reaches all corners of the globe on a daily basis.

Gold

The world's oceans contain nearly 20 million tons of gold. If all the gold suspended in the world's seawater were mined, each person on Earth could have about 9 pounds of gold.

**Area: ~140 million square miles
(362 million sq km)**

**Average Depth: 12,200 feet
(3,720 m)**

**Deepest point: 36,198 feet
(11,033 m)**

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