

Oceans cover the entire surface—no landmasses.

Essential elements, energy sources, and favorable temperature conditions allow life to thrive.

These worlds offer exciting opportunities for studying life's potential beyond Earth.

#### WHAT ARE OCEAN WORLDS?

### CHEMOSYNTHESIS – THE KEY TO LIFE IN DARKNESS

- Chemosynthesis: A process where organisms convert inorganic compounds (e.g., hydrogen sulfide, methane) into energy without sunlight.
- Common in deep-sea ecosystems like hydrothermal vents and oxygen-free environments.
- Provides the foundation for complex ecosystems in ocean worlds.



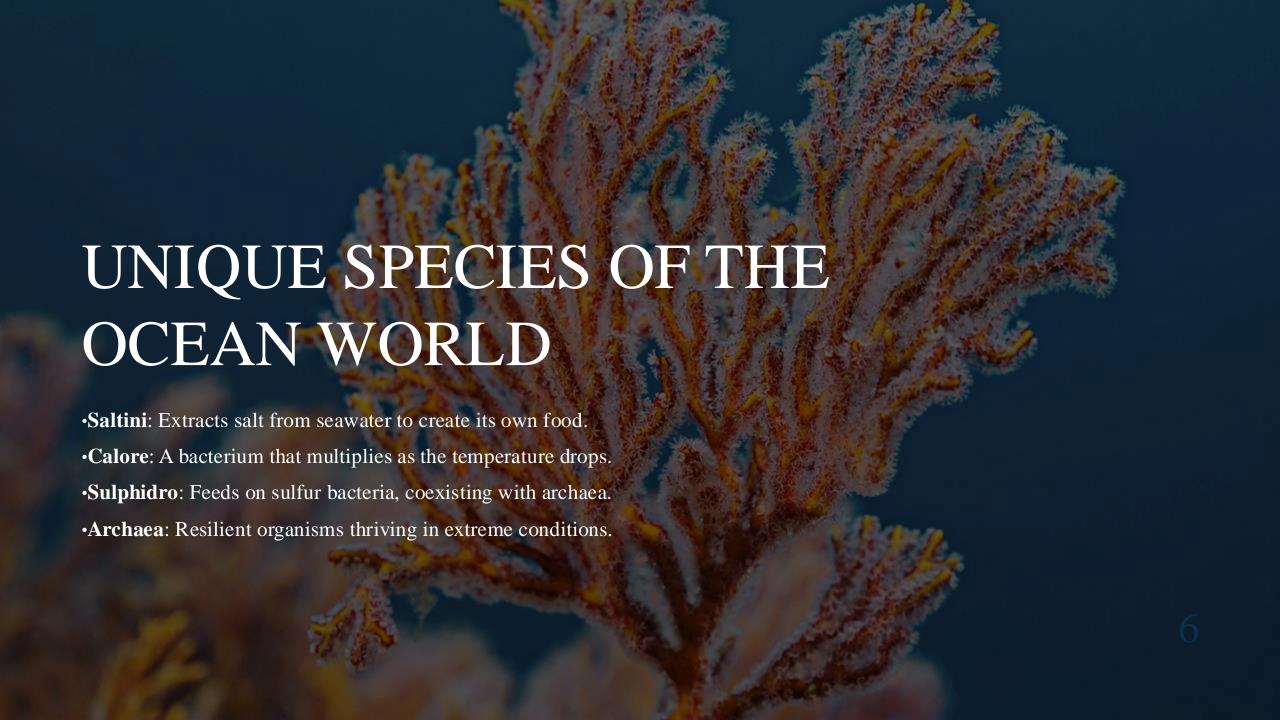
- •The ecosystem is driven by **chemosynthetic bacteria** at the base of the food chain.
- •Complex organisms evolve to form **symbiotic relationships** with bacteria.
- •Bioluminescent organisms produce light through chemical reactions, enabling communication in the dark.

#### LIFE IN AN OXYGEN-FREE OCEAN



In a landless, oxygen-free ocean, life thrives around underwater vents and explosions, relying on chemical reactions to survive in cold, dark conditions.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS OF THE OCEAN WORLD





Despite the lack of land and oxygen, life finds a way.



Evolution drives the development of diverse organisms and unique feeding strategies.



Example of life's adaptability in extreme environments, even in the deep ocean.

# THE HARSH YET THRIVING ECOSYSTEM