Exploring the Ocean Blue: Fun Facts about the Oceans of the Earth

By Gail Hennessey

1. Coral has been used to repair bones in humans!

2. Blue Whales can weigh as much as 30 elephants and are as long as three Greyhound buses! Its heart is about the size of a Volkswagen!

3. Basket Starfish has the most arms of any sea life... 80,000!

4. The highest wave ever recorded hit near Lituya Glacier in Alaska, in 1958. It was 1740 ft. high!

5. Wondering how many marine species exist? According to World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), at least 212,906!

6. Scientists say the jellyfish is older than the dinosaurs, dating back at least 650 million years ago!

7. Did you know that a dolphin sleeps with one eye open and with only half its brain.

8. The highest tides occur in the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia, Canada, reaching 53 ft. high!

9. The Ring of Fire located in the Pacific Ocean is the largest zone of active volcanoes on the sea floor. 75% of the world’s volcanoes are here!

10. There are 25,000 islands in the Pacific Ocean!

11. On April 17, 2013, a bottle washed up on the shores of a beach in the country of Croatia. It had been thrown into the sea in Nova Scotia, Canada....4000 miles away! Scientists say it probably traveled 5x that in its 28 years at sea!

12. A fish thought to be extinct for 60 million years was caught alive by fisherman off the southern coast of Africa, in 1938. Called a coelacanth, the fish has been around for 300 million years.
13. If you measure the tallest mountain from the sea floor up, Mt. Everest isn't the record holder! The highest mountain would be Mauna Kea, in Hawaii. It is 33,474 ft from the ocean floor but only 13,680 ft. above sea level.

14. Need light? An electric eel can make enough electricity to run about 10 light bulbs!

15. The longest mountain range on Earth is found in the Atlantic Ocean, from Antarctica to Iceland!

16. There is so much salt in the ocean that if all the salt was dried and collected, it would cover all the continents with 5 ft. of salt!

17. You can see the world's largest reef, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, (1,616 miles long) from outer space!

18. The earth has an estimated 315,000 miles of coastlines...that's enough miles to go 12 times around the Equator!

Your Turn:
1. Illustrate one of the factoids. Write a sentence explaining your drawing.

2. What are three reasons the oceans of the world are important to us?

3. Scientists say there are FIVE oceans covering our planet. The Southern Ocean has been added. It is also known as the Antarctic Ocean. Name ONE fact about each of the other 4 oceans.

4. Have you ever visited an ocean? Pretend you are at the ocean. Write a paragraph describing what you see, hear, smell and feel.

5. Why do you think there is a World Oceans Day?
Teacher Page:

Additional Links of Interest:
- [http://www.worldoceansday.org](http://www.worldoceansday.org)
- [http://www.marine.usf.edu/pjocean/packets/f98/f98u1le1.pdf](http://www.marine.usf.edu/pjocean/packets/f98/f98u1le1.pdf) (lots of information including reasons why oceans are important)

Check out my latest article, "Art for the Sea", in the current issue of Highlights for Children. All of Angela Pozzi's amazing art sculptures were created from plastics that washed ashore along the coast of Oregon. This article would be a great introduction to a discussion on our oceans. **World Oceans Day is June 8th.** Have students discuss how trash (especially plastics) can harm our marine life. Mention the Great Garbage Patch found in the Pacific Ocean ([https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/)).

Learn about the Oceans of the world with this web quest: **Exploring the Ocean Blue: A Web quest**, will introduce students to our oceans. There are nine informative web questions. Fun Facts, comprehension questions, extension activities and links are also provided as is the key. Can be used as part of a unit on oceans, for Earth Day, World Ocean Day or as an activity for a Friday, before a vacation break or as an end of the year activity. This can be a one day class resource or used for a couple of days depending on whether the activities (creative writing/art work/online simulation games, etc.) are used with the students: [https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Oceans-Exploring-the-Ocean-Blue-A-WebquestExtension-Activities-705943](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Oceans-Exploring-the-Ocean-Blue-A-WebquestExtension-Activities-705943)


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