

# World Oceans Day

The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods



## What Is World Oceans Day?

World Oceans Day is an international day which takes place annually on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. It's a way of raising awareness of the importance of our oceans; a chance to discuss the need for **sustainable** management of our oceans and the impact our actions and lifestyles are having on them.

## What's Happening to Our Oceans?

Our planet is extremely clever at maintaining an environment which allows wildlife and nature to thrive. Unfortunately, humans are endangering the Earth, and specifically the oceans, through over-fishing, plastic pollution and rising temperatures.

Sea temperatures rising mean that living things, such as coral reefs, begin to die which then has a knock-on effect to those creatures who live and feed off the reefs. The rising temperatures also mean that ice is melting too quickly, destroying food and habitats for many animals.

Overfishing means we are killing fish quicker than they can reproduce. Some creatures are in danger of becoming extinct which then leads to other species dying out too. Another huge problem with fishing is bycatch, where many species are accidentally caught in the nets and are thrown back into the ocean already dead or dying.

Pollution can come in different forms; the main pollutions for oceans are air, chemical and rubbish. Oil spills, rubbish, from landfills or littering, and fertilisers from farms all cause damage to the ocean and the animals living in it.

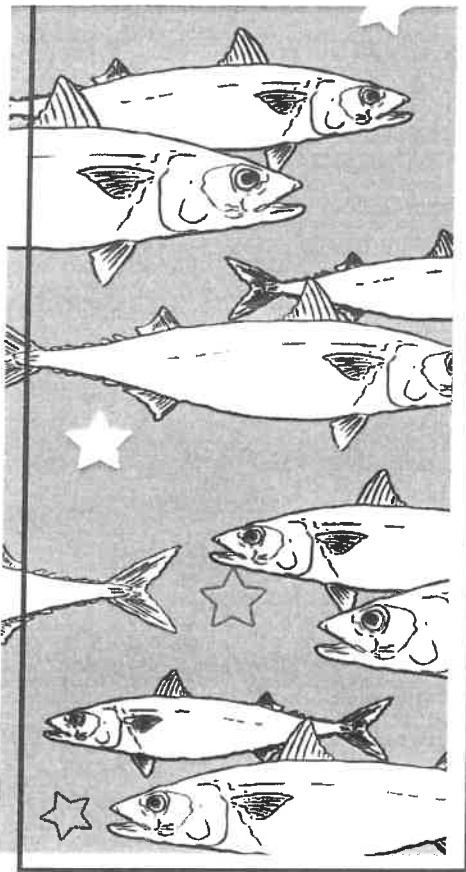
## Why Are Oceans Important?

The oceans are so vast that they cover over 70% of the Earth's surface.

They provide us with over half the oxygen that we breathe every day and absorb half the world's carbon dioxide.

They are also home to about 80% of life on Earth which play a big part in the chain of our ecosystem and provide us, and many other animals, with food. The ocean helps to **regulate** our climate; absorbing heat from the sun and helping to keep the Earth at the optimum temperature.

To put it simply, if our oceans die; we would die.



## 2021 Theme

Every year, World Oceans Day has a different theme to concentrate on. This year, the theme is 'Life and Livelihoods'. Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal **biodiversity** for their livelihoods. While the ocean provides us with many jobs, it's important that we work in a **sustainable** way to ensure that we don't continue to destroy the oceans.

This means that areas of the ocean need to be protected and that fishing happens in appropriate areas and in a way that protects habitats and leaves enough fish for people who rely on fishing for their livelihoods.

### Did You Know...?

Scientists have explored less than five per cent of the planet's oceans because they are so vast!

## What Can We Do to Help?

There are a number of ways in which you can help the ocean while also protecting people's livelihoods – the best thing you can do is research and educate yourself on where your fish is coming from and how it's being caught.

Make sure you source your fish from a sustainable company (**you can use the Good Fish Guide online and also look for the blue tick**).

Transport – walk or cycle as much as you can.

Go on beach clean ups.

Use less plastic – recycle, reuse and reduce.

Learn more about charities supporting our oceans and donate/raise money when possible.



## Glossary

**sustainable** able to be maintained at a certain rate or level

**regulate** to keep under control

**biodiversity** the unwanted marine creatures trapped by commercial fishing nets

# Questions

1. What date is World Oceans Day? Tick one.

- 8<sup>th</sup> July  
 18<sup>th</sup> June  
 8<sup>th</sup> June  
 18<sup>th</sup> July

2. Why do we celebrate World Oceans Day?

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3. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Oceans cover over...

80% of life on Earth.

They are home to over...

regulate our climate.

They provide us  
with over...

70% of the  
Earth's surface.

The ocean helps to...

half the oxygen that  
we breathe.

4. Why is the rising sea temperature a bad thing?

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5. Fill in the missing words.

Over three billion people depend on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for  
their \_\_\_\_\_.

6. In your own words, what is the problem with overfishing?

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7. How can people make sure they are fishing sustainably?

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8. Describe **two** ways in which, according to the text, we can all help to care for our oceans.

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9. Explain why you think it is important that we begin to take better care of our oceans.

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# Answers

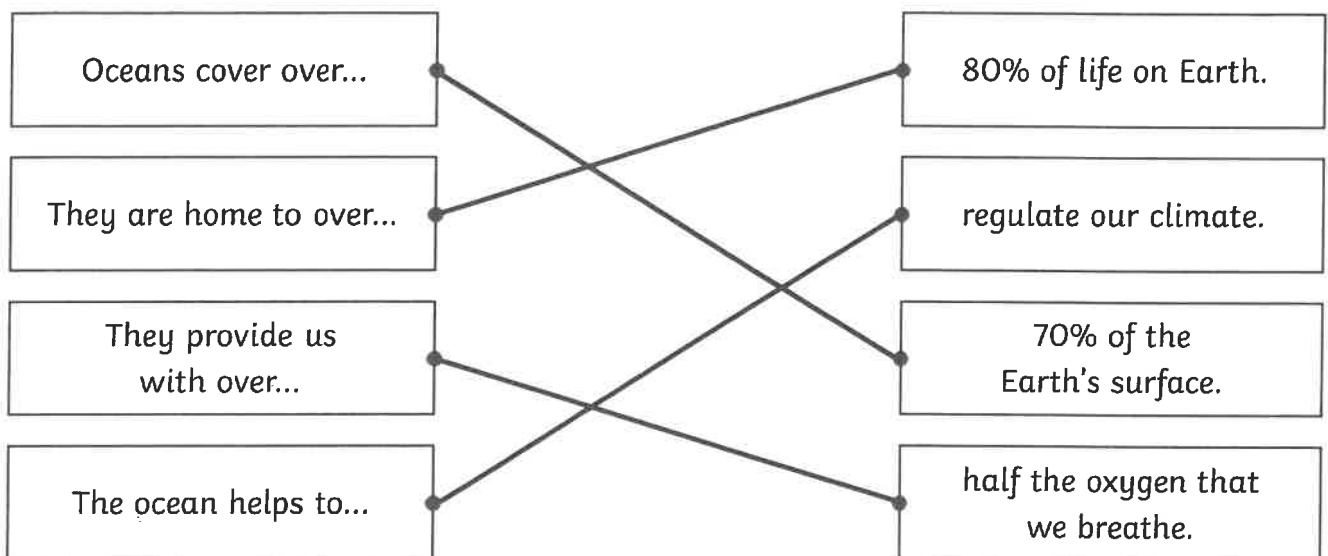
1. What date is World Oceans Day? Tick one.

- 8<sup>th</sup> July  
 18<sup>th</sup> June  
 8<sup>th</sup> June  
 18<sup>th</sup> July

2. Why do we celebrate World Oceans Day?

**We celebrate World Oceans Day to raise awareness of human impact on our oceans.**

3. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.



4. Why is the rising sea temperature a bad thing?

**The sea temperature rising is a bad thing because it means that living things, such as coral reefs, begin to die.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

Over three billion people depend on **marine** and **coastal biodiversity** for their **livelihoods**.

6. In your own words, what is the problem with overfishing?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The problem with overfishing is that fish are being killed faster than they can reproduce. This means that species have begun to become extinct which has a knock-on effect for other species. Bycatch is also killing many animals which are being caught accidentally.**

7. How can people make sure they are fishing sustainably?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: By only allowing fishing in certain areas, habitats and certain species of fish will be protected. In specific areas that fishing is allowed, it needs to be done with rules so that habitats are protected and enough fish are left for people who rely on fishing for their livelihoods.**

8. Describe **two** ways in which, according to the text, we can all help to care for our oceans.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The most important way we can help our oceans is by checking where our fish comes from and that it's sustainably sourced – we can check this by looking for the blue tick on packaging. We can also cut back on the plastic we use and make sure we are recycling, reusing and reducing our plastic use.**

9. Explain why you think it is important that we begin to take better care of our oceans.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I believe it's important we begin to take care of our ocean because if the ocean and creatures that live there die, so will we. Humans are causing a lot of damage to our planet so by taking better care of the ocean, we will begin to lessen the effects of global warming and help our ocean and planet to continue to thrive like it used to.**