
Water All Around Us

Background Information: An ocean is a huge body of salt water. Sea is the name of a particular body of salt water that is partially landlocked and smaller than an ocean. The name is also used to designate inland bodies of salt water. The earth is often called the “water planet”, but only a very small percentage of Earth’s water is readily available for use by humans, animals, and plants. 97% of the Earth’s water is too salty to use. There are five oceans that surround the world’s continents. They are the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Antarctic. The Pacific is the largest ocean. The largest sea is the South China Sea, which is part of the Pacific Ocean.

Objectives:

At the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Describe the difference between oceans and seas.
- Locate the five oceans on a map.
- Locate the South China Sea on a map.

Standards:

Science: science as inquiry

Social Studies: people, places & environment; global connections

Vocabulary:

Oceans

Seas

Materials:

Blank world map [outline]

Pencil

Globe

Large classroom map

Images of earth from space

Crayons

Directions for the Teacher:

1. Go over background information. Use a globe or large classroom map to give students a visual image.
2. Pass out blank world maps and have students follow the directions to label the map appropriately.
3. Allow students to color the map in.
4. Have students make a map on the classroom floor. Use a large sheet of paper, with pencil outlines of the continents, and paint. Break students into groups and have them fill in their classroom map. Label the continents and oceans as a group.

Extensions:

1. Complete a mini report or information packet on each ocean.
2. Use jigsaw cooperative learning technique to learn about each ocean.
3. Make a paper maché globe and label the oceans.

References / Resources:

- Cole, Joanna and Degen, Bruce. The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor. Scholastic, 1992.
- Rothhaus, Don. Oceans. Child's World, Oregon, 1997.
- Simon, Seymour. Oceans. Mulberry Paperback: NY, 1990.
- Taylor, Leighton and Wu Norbert. Life in the Seas Series. Blackbirch Press: Connecticut, 1999. (Life in the Seas book for each Ocean in this series).
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