



Runnymede St. Edwards School – Knowledge Organiser

Topic: Geography

Oceans

Year: 5

Term: Autumn

Vocabulary

North Pole - the most northerly point on Earth.

South Pole - the most southerly point on Earth.

Salinity - The saltiness of ocean and seawater.

Freight - Goods or cargo carried by ship, train, truck or aeroplane.

Ocean currents - the patterns that the ocean flows in.

Gyres - where ocean currents meet and move in large circular loops.

Phytoplankton - Tiny plants in oceans and seas that take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.

Fossil Fuels - These are formed from the decomposition of plants and animals that died millions of years ago. This matter is burnt for energy.



The World Ocean

The World Ocean is the name geographers give to the 5 main Oceans as they are all connected.

- The Pacific Ocean is the largest and lies to the West of North and South America, and to the East of Asia and Australia.
- The Atlantic Ocean is the Ocean to the East of North and South America and to the West of Europe and Africa.
- The Indian Ocean lies South of India.
- The Southern Ocean is North of Antarctica.
- The Arctic Ocean is North of the Arctic.

Did you know...

Over 70% of the Earth is water and that Oceans hold 97% of the water on the planet?

Oceans and Climate Change

Oceans and Seas regulate our climate, they move warm water from the Equator to the poles and move cold water from the poles to the tropics.

The world's Oceans regulate the amount of rain that falls and absorb carbon dioxide to help keep a balance between temperatures on Earth.

Sea levels are rising that will threaten some islands and livelihoods around the world.

One reason for rising sea levels is humans' use of fossil fuels. Burning these fuels to produce energy is causing the ice to melt at the North and South poles.

Human Impact

- Drift-net fishing catches fish but also catches other sea-life like sharks, dolphins and turtles. Sometimes drift-nets break apart into the sea. These nets do not breakdown very easily and sea-life often gets tangled within them.
- Some ships spill oil. Oil sticks to fur and feathers of marine animals. It can kill them.
- Rubbish that humans produce can get into the Oceans. It can end up in gyres and travel around polluting the oceans and killing marine life.