

World Oceans Day

World Oceans Day is a special day that happens every 8th June. The purpose of the day is to encourage everyone to protect the world's oceans.

What Are the World's Oceans Called?

There are five oceans which are connected with each other. The five oceans are:

- the Atlantic Ocean
- the Pacific Ocean
- the Arctic Ocean
- the Indian Ocean
- the Southern Ocean

Greater than two-thirds of the Earth's surface is water so it is a very important part of our planet.

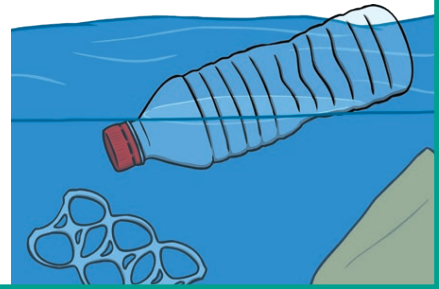
Why Do We Need to Protect the Oceans?

Human activity is causing our environment to change. Sadly, there is a lot of plastic pollution from rubbish that was not disposed of properly and this enters our oceans. Rubbish in the sea is called **marine** litter. Some of it floats and causes problems for animals such as seabirds, fish, seals and dolphins. Most of the rubbish sinks to the ocean floor and stays there for a very long time.

As our climate changes so do the oceans. When temperatures rise, polar ice melts and sea levels go up. This changes life for sea creatures and also for humans living in many countries close to the **coastline**.

Did You Know...?

A plastic bottle can last about 450 years in the sea. It slowly breaks up into miniscule pieces but these never completely disappear.



Where Does Marine Litter Come From?

Most **marine** litter comes from people on land. Some people leave litter on the beach, flush it down the toilet or drop it in a river. This litter ends up in the oceans.



How Can We Help?

We can use less plastic in our lives. We can make sure that our rubbish either goes in the bin or that we recycle it where we can. We must never litter because of the danger to animals and our environment.

Glossary

coastline the land along a coast (by the sea)

marine found in the sea

Questions

1. What is World Oceans Day? Tick **two**.

- ☐ a day to connect the five oceans
- ☐ a day that happens every year on 8th June
- ☐ a day to help everyone to look after the world's oceans

2. Fill in the missing word.

There are _____ oceans which are connected with each other.

3. Look at the **Why Do We Need to Protect the Oceans?** section.

Put **three** ticks in the table to show which sentences are **true** and which are **false**. The first one has been done for you.

Sentence	True	False
Our environment is changing because of human activity.	✓	
Marine litter causes problems for animals.		
Most plastic rubbish floats on the ocean.		
Sea levels are going down because temperatures are rising.		

4. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section.

Find and copy the word which means the same as 'very small'.

5. Look at the **Where Does Marine Litter Come From?** section.

Where does most marine litter come from?

6. Is it OK to leave your empty plastic drinks bottle on the beach when you go home? Explain why you think that.
