

Saving Our Oceans



photo by Papahānaukūkea Marine National Monument

Every year on June 8, people around the world are invited to celebrate World Ocean Day. The Mini Page learns more about World Ocean Day this week.

June 8

According to the World Ocean Day organization, "World Ocean Day rallies the world for ocean and climate action." The organization works with zoos, aquariums, museums and other organizations across the globe to increase awareness of ocean and climate issues. By educating others on these topics, they hope for a better future with a healthier ocean and more stable climate.



Oceans

There are five oceans around the world: Arctic, Pacific, Atlantic, Indian and Southern. The Pacific Ocean covers more than 30% of Earth. This is also the ocean with the most islands in it. Together, the oceans make up 70% of the world's surface.

The Atlantic Ocean is the second-largest ocean. It makes up 20% of the Earth's surface and 29% of the planet's water. The Atlantic Ocean is connected to all the other oceans. It's also the first ocean to have ever been crossed by a plane.

Every 10 years, the Arctic Ocean's ice cover shrinks by 12.6%. Polar bears depend on sea ice to help them capture seals for food because seals raise their young on sea ice. With the ice surfaces **diminishing**, or getting smaller, this makes it harder for both polar bears and seals to survive.



photo by Frank Koenig World

Cleanup event

One way to celebrate World Ocean Day is by attending a cleanup event in your area with a grown-up. These events raise awareness about the damage done to our environment by plastic pollution.

According to World Ocean Day, cleaning up trash reduces the amount of plastic pollution that reaches the ocean or harms wildlife. Cleanup events can also unite a community as the volunteers work together with a common goal in mind.



photo by Solberg/PhotoBank

If you don't have an event in your area, you can work with an adult to plan one yourself!

Garbage Patch

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP) is located in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and California. **Marine debris**, which is plastic, litter, fishing gear and other human-made waste, has accumulated in the area, stretching across an estimated 617,763 square miles of ocean. Experts say it is difficult to know exactly how big the GPGP is because the debris is constantly moving with winds and ocean currents. It is estimated there is between 1 million and 2 million tons of trash in the GPGP.

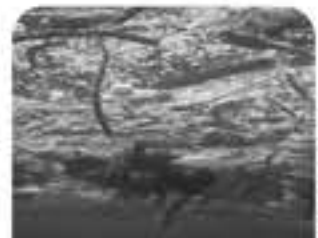


photo courtesy of NOAA

Some of the plastics in the patch are **microplastics**, which are smaller than a pencil eraser.

Marine debris is dangerous because animals sometimes think it's food and eat it. Crabs and other species can attach themselves to marine debris and travel to places where they have no natural predators, which can cause major issues for the ecosystem.

Sea life can be caught in marine debris, which can cause injuries or even lead to death.

Resources



On the Web:

- worldoceanday.org

At the library:

- "Ultimate Oceanpedia" by Christina Wildon
- "Ocean Animals for Kids" by Bethanie Hestermann and Josh Hestermann

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of World Ocean Day are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- ARCTIC, ATLANTIC,
- CLEANUP, DAY,
- DEBRIS, EARTH,
- GARBAGE PATCH,
- INDIAN, MARINE,
- MICROPLASTICS, OCEAN,
- PACIFIC, POLAR BEARS,
- POLLUTION, SEA LIFE,
- SOUTHERN, TANKER.

F	E	O	C	E	A	N	B	P	A	C	I	F	I	C
E	N	S	D	P	O	L	L	U	T	I	O	N	Q	P
J	I	R	D	A	Y	A	R	C	T	I	C	V	J	Q
N	R	E	H	T	U	O	S	D	E	B	R	I	S	Z
I	A	K	Y	P	O	L	A	R	B	E	A	R	S	F
G	M	N	H	T	R	A	E	E	F	I	L	A	E	S
X	Q	A	Y	K	U	C	A	T	L	A	N	T	I	C
C	Q	T	G	A	R	B	A	G	E	P	A	T	C	H
S	C	I	T	S	A	L	P	O	R	C	I	M	Y	N
I	N	D	I	A	N	P	U	N	A	E	L	C	X	J

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are enjoying a day at the ocean. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appears in the first issue of each month.

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- sea horse
- kite
- word MINI
- tooth
- key
- ring
- letter A
- doughnut
- caterpillar
- number 3
- sailboat
- pencil
- turtle

Mini Jokes



Olga: How did the lobster get to the ocean?
Omar: By shell-icopter.

Eco Note



Heat stress from steadily rising temperatures in India is pushing some of its human population to the limits of survival. After India's hottest February on record, there are growing fears there will be a repeat of last summer's record heat waves, which killed hundreds, caused massive crop losses and triggered power blackouts. With temperatures last summer comparable to those in the Sahara and Saudi Arabia, South Asia's much higher humidity made sweating much less efficient for the population, or not effective at all.

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For later:

Look in the newspaper for items about the ocean.

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