

DEEP DISCOVERIES

Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, Southern—we have lots of names for Earth’s oceans and seas. But they’re really one giant, connected body. Their currents swirl around our planet, moving heat and creating weather systems. Our massive ocean covers almost three-fourths of Earth. It’s so big and so deep that we’ve only explored about 5% of it.

Each year, about 2,000 new marine plants and animals are identified. Some live in the deep, dark waters near the ocean floor. There may be *millions* more species yet to find!

Marine ecosystems can help us understand climate, weather, and diverse life forms. Healthy oceans and seas are vital to a thriving planet. They need our protection. Imagine the wonders waiting to be discovered!

Fill in the missing letters to discover how the ocean helps us and how we can help the ocean.

1 OCEAN PLANTS PROVIDE HALF OR MORE OF EARTH’S O ● ● YGE ● AND USE CARBON DIOXIDE, SO THEY SLOW GLOBAL WARMING.

2 OVER THREE BILLION PEOPLE DEPEND ON THE OCEAN AS A MAJOR ● ● OUR ● ● E OF PROTEIN.

3 MARINE PLANTS AND ANIMALS CAN CREATE MANY NEW ME ● ● ICI ● ● ES.

4 CURRENTS AND TIDES ARE AN ENDLESS SOURCE OF CLEAN ● ● N ● ● RGY.

5 OCEAN WATER EVAPORATES TO FORM CLOUDS THAT RAIN AND BRING US F ● ● ES ● ● WATER.

6 ABOUT 80% OF TRASH IN THE OCEAN IS PLASTIC. USE LESS PLASTIC, AND RE ● ● Y ● ● LE IT.

7 HELP CLEAN UP THE ● ● EA ● ● HES AND WATERWAYS NEAR YOU.

8 DON’T TOUCH MARINE LIFE OR DISTURB N ● ● TUR ● ● L HABITATS.

9 BE C ● ● RE ● ● UL WITH POURING STUFF DOWN THE DRAIN. HARSH CHEMICALS CAN END UP IN RIVERS AND OCEANS.