

Earth gets a fifth ocean

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Many of us thought the world had four oceans - the Atlantic, Indian, Pacific and Arctic Oceans. That's what we were taught in school. However, a search on the Internet will show that there is also a "Southern Ocean" around the South Pole and

Antarctica. The National Geographic Society has now officially accepted that this body of water around Antarctica is a real ocean. Geography teachers will now have to teach their students that the world has five oceans. Alex Tait, a geographer and cartographer at National Geographic, said: "We think it's really important from an educational [viewpoint], as well as from a map-labelling standpoint, to bring attention to the Southern Ocean as a fifth ocean."

National Geographic said its recognition of the world having a fifth ocean would have an impact on how children see the world. Mr Tait said: "Students learn information about the...world through what oceans they're studying. If you don't include the Southern Ocean, then they don't learn...how important it is." He said that recognising the Southern Ocean would help students understand more about climate change. He wrote: "Antarctica forms a distinct ecological region defined by ocean currents and temperatures." National Geographic said: "The Southern Ocean [has] unique and fragile marine ecosystems that are home to wonderful marine life such as whales, penguins and seals."

Sources:
nationalgeographic.com / *theguardian.com* / *usatoday.com*

Writing

Our oceans so damaged they cannot be repaired. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

oceans / Pacific Ocean / Internet / South Pole / Antarctica / National Geographic / the world / impact / information / climate change / ecological / region / marine

True / False

- 1) Schools always taught children that there were five oceans. T / F
- 2) The Southern Ocean goes around the South Pole and Antarctica. T / F
- 3) National Geographic says the Southern Ocean is not a real ocean. T / F
- 4) A geographer said it was important to recognise the Southern Ocean. T / F
- 5) The Southern Ocean can impact how children view the world. T / F
- 6) The Southern Ocean can help children to learn about climate change. T / F
- 7) The Southern Ocean has fragile ecosystems. T / F
- 8) The article says the Southern Ocean is home to polar bears. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. thought | a. opinion |
| 2. show | b. genuine |
| 3. real | c. area |
| 4. viewpoint | d. reveal |
| 5. attention | e. sea |
| 6. impact | f. delicate |
| 7. distinct | g. believed |
| 8. region | h. affect |
| 9. fragile | i. separate |
| 10. marine | j. awareness |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the world's oceans?
- b) What are the differences between oceans and seas?
- c) How are the world's oceans different?
- d) Which of the world's oceans have you seen?
- e) What do you know about the Southern Ocean?
- f) What do you know about National Geographic?
- g) Would you prefer to visit the South Pole or North Pole?
- h) What did you think of geography at school?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Many of us thought the world | a. see the world |
| 2. That's what we were | b. water |
| 3. body of | c. ecosystems |
| 4. a geographer and | d. viewpoint |
| 5. really important from an educational | e. and temperatures |
| 6. have an impact on how children | f. had four oceans |
| 7. Antarctica forms a distinct ecological | g. life such as whales |
| 8. ocean currents | h. region |
| 9. unique and fragile marine | i. taught in school |
| 10. home to wonderful marine | j. cartographer |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How do children see the world?
- How important is the Southern Ocean?
- How worried are you about climate change?
- What is your image of Antarctica?
- What can we do to protect the world's oceans?
- What do you think of whales, penguins and seals?
- What questions would you like to ask a cartographer?

Spelling

- Indian, aicifPc and Arctic Oceans
- the South Pole and ccAntatria
- iolflayfic accepted that
- a ghegrpreao and cartographer
- an educational tpvwioien
- bring oenittnat to the Southern Ocean
- its oteorcingni of the world
- have an amitcp
- a distinct ogiccaelol region
- ocean rcertnus and temperatures
- ilaegr marine ecosystems
- whales, snueipgn and seals

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. b	4. a	5. j
6. h	7. i	8. c	9. f	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Whales

You think whales are the most interesting kind of marine life. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): penguins, plankton or corals.

Role B – Penguins

You think penguins are the most interesting kind of marine life. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): whales, plankton or corals.

Role C – Plankton

You think plankton is the most interesting kind of marine life. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): penguins, whales or corals.

Role D – Corals

You think corals are the most interesting kind of marine life. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): penguins, plankton or whales.

Speaking – Marine Life

Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| • Plankton | • Whales |
| • Giant squid | • Penguins |
| • Starfish | • Seals |
| • Corals | • Turtles |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.