

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Oceans

Today, we're going to talk about oceans...in just a minute.

You've seen oceans on a map or globe. Maybe you've even swum in one. But did you know that the world ocean covers more than 70% of the Earth's surface? The world ocean is divided into five smaller oceans.

The Pacific Ocean is the largest, covering 28% of the planet—that's almost the same area as all the land on Earth combined. It also contains the deepest known point on Earth: 36,000 feet, or almost 7 miles, below sea level.

The Atlantic Ocean is known for its active hurricane season. It includes many smaller bodies of water like the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Indian Ocean contains many port cities and important international trade routes. It's also known for bringing monsoons, powerful winds, to India and Southeast Asia.

The Southern Ocean was first recognized in the year 2000. It contains the world's largest ocean current, which runs eastward for over 13,000 miles!

The Arctic Ocean is the world's smallest. Much of it is covered by polar ice—but the ice is melting more and more as the Earth's climate changes.

If you could explore any of the world's oceans, which would you pick?