

# Year 5 Geography: Why do oceans matter?

## What I should already know:

That oceans are salt water, covering most of the Earth's surface.

The name and location of the world's seven continents and five oceans.

Some common marine animals and plants.

Water moves around the Earth in the water cycle – it evaporates, condenses, and falls as rain.

That pollution can harm living things and their habitats.

## At the end of this topic, I will know:

The different ways oceans are used and why they are important for people, animals, and the planet.

What the Great Barrier Reef is, where it's located, why it is special and how humans affect it.

How humans impact the oceans and the consequences of this.

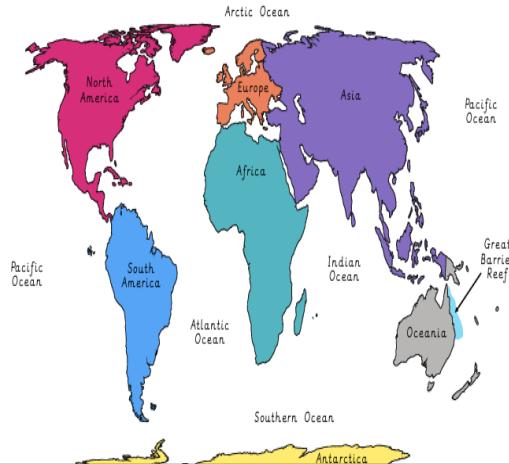
Some actions that we can take to help support healthy oceans.

How to carry out a geographical enquiry by collecting and analysing data about litter.

## Key Facts:

### Why do oceans matter?

- ✓ They are used for trading between countries.
- ✓ Ocean currents influence our weather.
- ✓ They provide food and jobs.
- ✓ They are used for tourism and fun activities.
- ✓ They give us ingredients for medicine.
- ✓ They absorb carbon dioxide and warm our planet
- ✓ Coral reefs act as a buffer to natural disasters.
- ✓ Coral reefs are home to a quarter of our marine species.



### The Great Barrier Reef

The largest coral reef in the world and around 20 million years old. It stretches over 2,300km, and supports about 9,000 species of marine life. Fish use coral reefs for food, shelter, and breeding grounds. It is important for protecting coastlines, helps keep the ocean healthy and clean, and it stores some of the carbon from the air to help our planet stay balanced.



### Ways to support a healthy ocean:

- ✓ Trying to avoid buying single-use plastic.
- ✓ Recycling any plastics where possible.
- ✓ Only buy what you need to reduce waste.
- ✓ Buying second-hand.
- ✓ Re-using or re-purposing items.
- ✓ Teaching others about the ocean.
- ✓ Only buy seafood you need.
- ✓ Trying to use natural fertilisers in gardens.
- ✓ Use less energy and walk or cycle if you can.
- ✓ Join local clean ups and support conservation projects.

## Vocabulary

<b>ocean</b>	A large body of saltwater covering most of the Earth.
<b>ocean current</b>	The movement of a large area of seawater driven by the wind, gravity and water density
<b>Coral Reef</b>	A structure made by tiny animals (coral polyps) that provides homes for many sea creatures.
<b>Great Barrier Reef</b>	The largest coral reef in the world, found off the coast of Australia.
<b>marine</b>	Relating to the ocean
<b>habitat</b>	The natural home of an animal or plant.
<b>pollution</b>	Harmful substances added to the environment.
<b>climate change</b>	Long-term changes in temperature and weather patterns, often caused by human activity such as burning fossil fuels.
<b>coral bleaching</b>	When coral turns white and can die because ocean temperatures rise or the water becomes polluted.
<b>overfishing</b>	Catching too many fish so there aren't enough left to breed and keep populations healthy.
<b>biodiversity</b>	The variety of living things in one area.
<b>conservation</b>	Protecting and caring for the environment and wildlife.
<b>sustainable</b>	Using resources carefully so they last for the future.
<b>microplastics</b>	Tiny pieces of plastic created from plastic waste.
<b>single use plastic</b>	Plastic only used once and then thrown away.
<b>biodegradable</b>	When something naturally breaks down and returns to nature.
<b>renewable energy</b>	Energy generated from a source that is continuous, such as wind or water.