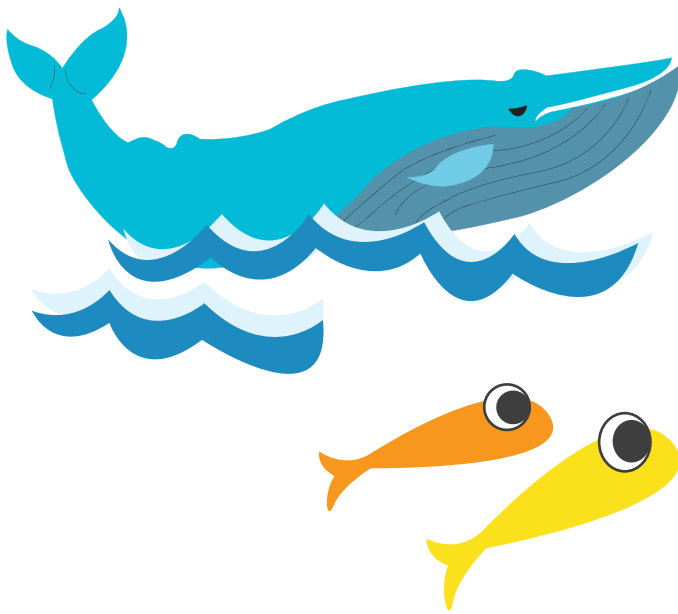


Why is the ocean salty?

The ocean has been salty for a long time—way before humans were around to use it as a seasoning!



Millions of years ago when our planet was first forming, gasses from deep within the earth started bubbling up to the surface. These gasses contained tons of salt, and when they bubbled up into the ocean, the salt was released.

Today, rain water continues to deposit even more salt into the ocean. When rain droplets fall on land, they often pick up pieces of salt. Some of these droplets slip and slide across the land to eventually reach the ocean.

ACTIVITY:

Make your own salt water by mixing several teaspoonfuls of regular table salt into a glass of water. Leave it out on a sunny windowsill for a couple of days. The water will evaporate, but salt residue will stay in the glass.

Why do you think this happens?

