

# Ocean Vocabulary



## *Arctic*

The Arctic Ocean is the smallest and shallowest ocean on earth, at only 5,427,000 square miles. It surrounds the North Pole. It has the lowest salinity due to heavy inflow of freshwater from rivers and streams. Because it's so close to the North Pole, the Arctic Ocean is covered by ice throughout most of the year.

## *Atlantic*

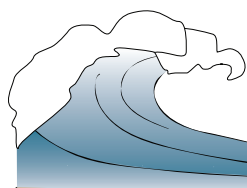
The Atlantic Ocean is about 41,100,000 square miles. It's bounded by North and South America on the West and Europe and Africa to the east. For an ocean, the Atlantic is pretty shallow: on average, it's about 10,950 feet deep. The Atlantic Ocean has had a huge impact on human migration: during America's immigration boom in the 1800s and early 1900s, millions of immigrants made the dangerous journey across the Atlantic to start a new life in America.

## *Indian*

The Indian Ocean covers about 28,350,000 square miles and makes up about 20% of the water on earth's surface. It's bounded by Asia, Africa, Australia and the Southern Ocean. It includes many seas, including the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

## *Pacific*

The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest of all the world's oceans. It covers 64,186,000 square miles – that's more than 1/3 of the Earth's surface! All the continents on earth could fit into the area that the Pacific covers. The deepest part of the ocean, the Mariana Trench, is under the Pacific – it's as low as 36,198 feet below the surface in one spot. Pacific means calm, and the ocean was named so because it was calmer than the Atlantic.



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## Southern

The Southern Ocean is the southernmost ocean on the planet. It covers about 7,848,000 square miles and surrounds Antarctica. However, there is disagreement about where the boundaries are since it's not surrounded by land. It's instead surrounded by other oceans: the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific. The Southern Ocean is home to a variety of wildlife, including many kinds of whales, squid, and seals.

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**Put the oceans in order from least to greatest square footage.**

<i><b>Ocean</b></i>	<i><b>Square Footage</b></i>

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## Ocean Math

A *fathom* is a way to measure the depth of the ocean. If one fathom is equal to 6 feet...

1. how many fathoms deep is the Mariana Trench? \_\_\_\_\_ fathoms
2. how many fathoms deep is the Atlantic Ocean (on average)? \_\_\_\_\_ fathoms

