
Ocean Conditions

1. What is the average deep ocean temperature?

Almost all of the deep ocean temperatures are only a little warmer than freezing (39°F).



2. What is the ocean pressure at its deepest point?

At the deepest point in the ocean, the pressure is more than 8 tons per square inch or the equivalent of one person trying to hold 50 jumbo jets.

3. How much gold is there in the ocean?

If all the gold suspended in the world's seawater were mined, each person on Earth could have about 9 pounds of gold.



4. Why is the ocean blue?

The ocean looks blue because sea water absorbs all of the reds, yellows and greens out of the water, leaving only blue light to be reflected by the water molecules. As soon as you put particles into the water it is no longer blue! In some areas, the water looks green because the blue water mixes with the yellow pigments present in floating plants. The Black Sea looks black because it has little oxygen. The Red Sea is red because it contains seasonal blooms of algae that color the surface water red. And the Yellow Sea is yellow because it contains a yellow mud carried into it by adjoining rivers.

5. Why is the ocean salty?

The ocean's principal dissolved solids are sodium salts (sodium chloride or common salt), calcium salts (calcium carbonate or lime, and calcium sulfate), potassium salts (potassium sulfate), and magnesium salts (magnesium chloride, magnesium sulfate, and magnesium bromide).

6. What is the thickness of ice in the Arctic Ocean?

The average thickness of the Arctic ice sheet is about 9 to 10 feet, although there are some areas as thick as 65 feet.



7. Is there any volcanic activity in the oceans?

90% of all volcanic activity on Earth occurs in the ocean. The largest known concentration of active volcanoes (approximately 1,133) on the sea floor is located in the South Pacific in an area the size of New York state.

8. What's the difference between the ocean and the sea?

The words ocean and sea are used interchangeably, yet a sea is a body of water that is much smaller than an ocean. The term "seven seas" was used by the Mohammedan explorers before the 15th century. The "seven seas" included the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, East African Sea, West African Sea, and China Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean. In modern times, it has become common to divide the world's oceans into seven parts to retain this legendary number. The popular and accepted division today is the Arctic, North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Pacific, South Pacific, Indian and Antarctic Oceans.



9. How much salt is in the ocean?

If the ocean's total salt content were dried, it would cover all of the continents to a depth of about 5 feet.

10. What's the difference between a hurricane and a typhoon?

Hurricanes and typhoons are alike in origin, structure, and features. The only difference is the area of the world they occur in. Hurricanes occur in the waters adjacent to North America; in the North Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and southeastern North Pacific Ocean. On the other hand, typhoons occur in waters of the western North Pacific Ocean. Due to the unlimited amount of warm water in the Western Pacific Ocean, typhoons occur

more often than hurricanes and are often larger and more intense.



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