

Exploring UK locations (Zoom In, Zoom Out)

Shore, coast and ocean

De-Graft: Today I'm exploring ocean life and getting a close up look amongst the rock pools. Let's zoom in...

I found a crab! I'm in a place called Coldingham Bay which is part of the first voluntary marine reserve in Scotland, meaning it's area is protected by local volunteers.

Later I'm going to be joining locals Sonny and Grace, who are helping look after the beach by doing some litter picking.

But first, let's zoom out... Coldingham Bay is on the east coast of Scotland. If we zoom out a little more we can see all this blue - that's one big interconnected world ocean, covering around seven tenths of the planet's surface. But it's often divided into five regions when we talk about it: the Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic, Indian and Southern oceans.

Ocean life is part of the *aquatic biome*, or habitat, which means anything that relates to or lives in the sea. There are many different types of vegetation in ocean environments. Along these shores there's a lot of kelp, which is a type of seaweed. Underwater kelp forests are great for the planet because they store carbon, even more effectively than tropical rainforests.

Unfortunately, ocean habitats are often overlooked and have been badly impacted in the past by things such as marine transport, like fishing boats and ships. Dredging, when machines dig up the sea bed, often to deepen channels for ships and boats. And pollution or sewage waste. However, in recent years new projects have been created to help protect ocean life. Such as replanting sea-grass beds, that are amazing ecosystems.

Locals Sonny and Grace already know a bit about looking after the ocean. I'm joining them litter picking on the beach, which helps to keep the water as clean as possible.

Child: Aha! A bit of plastic!

Child: And I found some newspaper.

De-Graft: You know what guys, I think this looks beautiful, but what's it like actually living near the sea?

Child: In the summer, with my friends coming and we all get boogie boards.

De-Graft: I think this view looks pretty incredible.

- Child: Any time of the year, it just looks magical no matter what.
- De-Graft: So I've brought a couple pictures of some ocean life for you guys and I want to see if you recognise any of these. I've been told that this fish lives around here. Do you recognise it?
- Child: I have never seen that before!
- De-Graft: So this is called an Arctic wolffish. Divers from all around the UK come over here to find it.
- Child: Seal.
- De-Graft: A nice little seal, yeah! We know that seal colonies come here to breed in the winter.
- Child: A seagull.
- De-Graft: Oh, close! This is actually called a tern. Now Arctic terns have one of the longest migrations of any bird. They come here in the summer and fly all the way to the Antarctic in the winter. Do you two think that it's important to look after ocean life?
- Child: It's absolutely important because imagine if we had no wildlife, how boring would the world be.
- De-Graft: Yeah, that's a really good point.
- Litter picking isn't the only way we can protect ocean life. Alex works at the Marine Reserve here. Alex, what else can we do?
- Expert: One of the things that we can do, even if we are not living by the ocean, is make sustainable choices in our everyday lives. Which can include the food that we're eating, the materials that we're buying, we can choose to recycle, and these choices can really have a positive impact on our oceans.
- De-Graft: OK, time to compare... The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is a famous example of a precious marine environment. It measures around 350,000 kilometres square in total. That's nearly four and a half times bigger than all of Scotland!
- So what other ocean life or marine environments can you discover that exist near you and across the globe? And what can you do to preserve them? Zoom in and have a look for yourself.
- Oh, look, another piece of litter!