

KS1 Geography: Oceans and seas

The oceans of the world

NAOMI: Oh, that looks like fun! What are you running away from?

CHILDREN: The sea!

NAOMI: Oh, no! Careful you don't get wet!

Most of our planet, Earth, is covered in saltwater. In fact, there's more water than land on the Earth's surface. We call these areas of saltwater *oceans*. The Earth has five oceans: The Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, the Indian Ocean and the Southern Ocean.

The Atlantic surrounds the United Kingdom, where we live. Around our coasts the Atlantic Ocean is made up of four smaller areas of water: The North Sea, the Irish Sea, the Celtic Sea, and the English Channel.

One of our explorers has been visiting the coast near them...

CHILD: Hi guys, my name's Aneeshwar and here's my dad. And we're here to explore this beach. Come on, let's explore!

This is the Irish sea and it's a small part of the Atlantic Ocean. It's windy and the sea looks very, very choppy. I see a lot of boats travelling back and forth here today.

Thanks for exploring the Irish Sea with us. Bye!

NAOMI: Thanks, Aneeshwar! The Atlantic Ocean isn't just close to the UK. It's the second largest ocean in the world and it stretches all the way from the top part of the Earth, the North, to the bottom part, the South. In some parts the water of the Atlantic Ocean can be very cold. But in other parts the water can be as warm as a bath! Ahh. Ok, where next?

CHILD: The Pacific Ocean!

NAOMI: Ah, yes! The Pacific Ocean is the biggest ocean in the world. Look - it touches the coastlines of Asia, Australasia, North America and South America. It contains just over half of all the world's ocean water.

It's also the deepest ocean. In the Pacific Ocean there is a very deep bit called The Mariana Trench. It's so deep that the tallest mountain on Earth, Mount Everest, could sit on the bottom and still not reach the surface of the water. Okay, where to now?

CHILD: The Arctic Ocean!

NAOMI: The Arctic Ocean is the smallest ocean that goes around the very top of the Earth. It's also one of the coldest oceans. It's so cold during the winter, that most of the Arctic Ocean turns to ice. But that doesn't stop lots of people and animals living in or near the Arctic Ocean. Brr! That looks cold! Where shall we go next? Somewhere warm please!

CHILD: The Indian Ocean!

NAOMI: Oh, great! The warmest ocean. The Indian Ocean is down here below southern Asia. If you went to the seaside in western Australia or the east coast of Africa, you would be swimming in the Indian Ocean - which would be lovely because it's not too hot and not too cold. So it's a bit like swimming in an indoor swimming pool in the UK.

So that's four oceans which means we have just one more to go.

CHILD: The Southern Ocean!

NAOMI: The Southern Ocean is found around Antarctica. It connects to the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. The Southern Ocean goes all the way around the bottom - or southern - part of the Earth. In the winter the Southern Ocean gets so cold that some of it turns to ice and you can see icebergs. Ooh! That really does look cold!

Speaking of cold, it looks like it's time for you lot to get warmed up!