

Module 12: Oceanography

Topic 1 Content: The Earth's Oceans Notes

Introduction

The Introduction

i While there is only one global ocean, this body of water is divided into distinct, named regions. The boundaries between these regions have evolved over time for a variety of reasons. The four main oceans are the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean. Recently, oceanographers have added the Southern, or Antarctic, Ocean as the fifth. In this interactivity, click on each of the lifesaver icons to learn more about each of the world's oceans.



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Atlantic Ocean

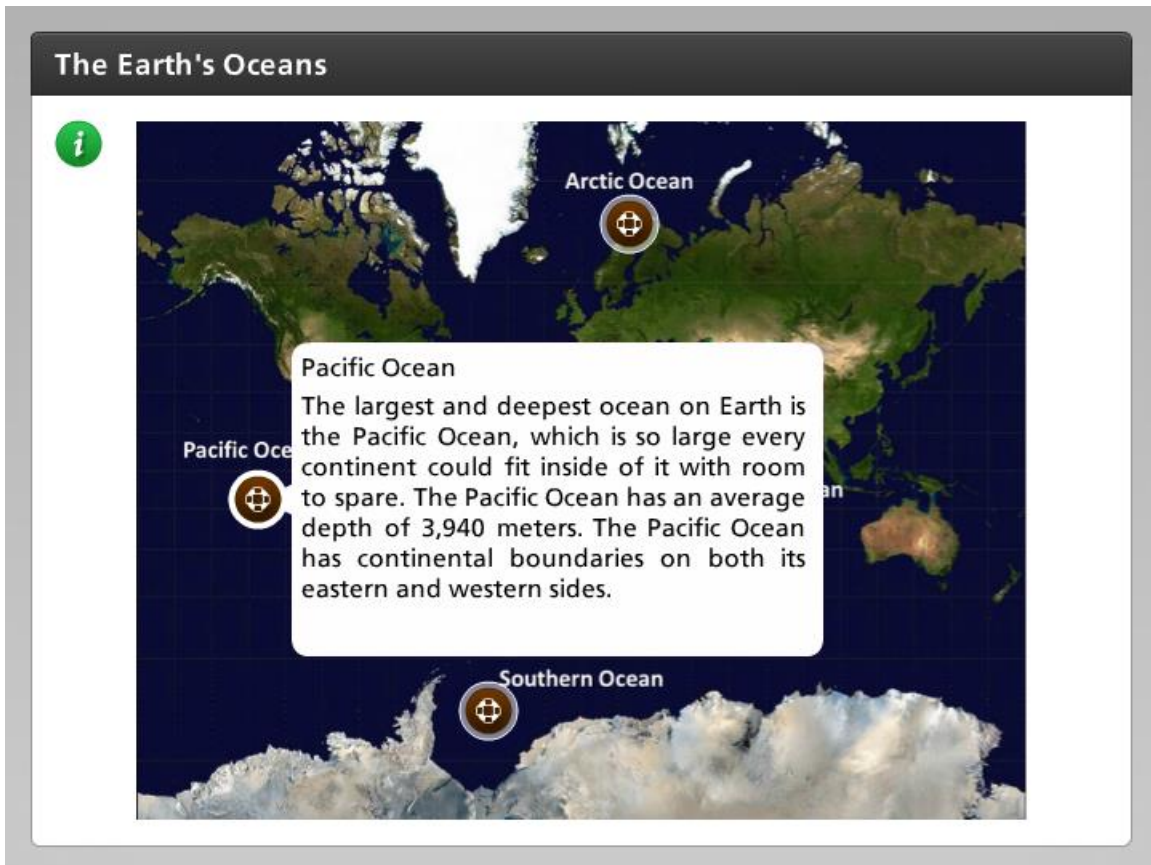


The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest ocean on Earth. The Atlantic Ocean is both shallow and narrow when compared to the Pacific Ocean. The Atlantic Ocean has continental boundaries on both its eastern and western sides.

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Pacific Ocean



The largest and deepest ocean on Earth is the Pacific Ocean, which is so large every continent could fit inside of it with room to spare. The Pacific Ocean has an average depth of 3,940 meters. The Pacific Ocean has continental boundaries on both its eastern and western sides.

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Southern Ocean

The Earth's Oceans



Southern Ocean
The Southern Ocean, also called the Antarctic Ocean, begins 50 degrees south of the Equator. This ocean is recognized by oceanographers, but is technically made up of the southern boundaries of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.

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Arctic Ocean



The Arctic Ocean is located in the far Northern Hemisphere, and is the smallest ocean on Earth. The Arctic Ocean is shallow when compared to the other oceans.

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Indian Ocean



The Indian Ocean is smaller than the Atlantic Ocean, but it similar in depth. Unlike the Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic oceans, the Indian Ocean is found predominately in the Southern Hemisphere.