

Exercise 1: Do the quiz with a partner. Then listen and check your answers.

MYSTERIES OF THE OCEAN QUIZ

Around 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered by oceans. But how much do you know about the mysteries hidden under the surface?

TRUE or FALSE?

1. The sea is blue because it reflects the colour of the sky.
2. Winding rivers with strong currents exist deep under the ocean.
3. The blue whale is the largest animal known to have ever existed.
4. Most volcanic eruptions are underwater.
5. The Pacific Ocean was named after the person who discovered it.
6. Humpback whales live all year round in the calm seas around Hawaii.
7. It's impossible to surf huge waves of over twenty metres high.
8. The longest mountain range in the world is found underwater.
9. The Great Barrier Reef is composed of 900 tropical islands and can be seen from the moon.
10. The difference in the depth of water between low tide and high tide can be up to sixteen metres.

Exercise 2: Listen again. Answer the questions.

1. When the seabed is disturbed by stormy weather, what happens to the colour of the sea?
2. What caused the blue whale to almost become extinct?
3. What sometimes increases the temperature of seawater to 400 degrees Celsius?
4. What did Ferdinand Magellan find by chance and then name in 1520?
5. How many individual reefs and how many islands is the Great Barrier Reef formed from?
6. Where does the water depth only change by ten centimetres when the tide rises and falls?

ANSWER KEY

Exercise 1:

1-F 2-T 3-T 4-T 5-F 6-F 7-F 8-T 9-T 10-T

Exercise 2:

1. It changes from blue to brown.
2. Hunting.
3. Volcanic lava.
4. The Pacific Ocean.
5. 2,900 reefs and 900 islands.
6. In the Caribbean.

TRACK 01

1 False.

The colour of the sea depends on the sun.

When the sun shines down onto the ocean, red, orange and yellow rays are absorbed quickly, while blue rays are not absorbed.

They are reflected back, giving the sea a blue colour.

When the seabed is stirred up by a storm the sea can appear brown and the presence of plants can give it a green colour.

2 True.

Underwater rivers are similar to those you find on dry land – they flow along valleys in the seabed and they have currents and river banks on both sides.

The only difference is they don't have trees on the river banks.

3 True.

The blue whale is even bigger than the biggest dinosaurs.

Blue whales grow up to 30 metres in length, and can weigh as much as 200,000 kilograms.

In the twentieth century they were hunted until they almost died out.

In 1966, blue whale hunting was banned.

4 True.

Up to eighty percent of volcanic eruptions happen underwater.

The lava can heat up the water to almost 400 degrees Celsius.

5 False.

When Ferdinand Magellan sailed around the tip of South America in 1520 he came across another body of water.

He called it the peaceful ocean, or the Pacific.

6 False.

Humpback whales leave the icy waters around Alaska in autumn and swim for 6 to 8 weeks to the calm seas of Hawaii where they mate and give birth to their young.

7 False.

Hawaiian surfer Garrett McNamara surfed a monster wave measuring 23.8 metres at Nazaré in Portugal in 2011.

8 True.

The Mid-Atlantic Ridge runs from Iceland to Antarctica beneath the Atlantic and stretches for roughly 16,000 kilometres.

9 True.

The Great Barrier Reef stretches for 2,300 kilometres.

It's made up of 2,900 individual reefs and 900 tropical islands.

10 True.

It depends on the shape of the ocean floor and other factors, but when the tide comes in the Bay of Fundy on the west coast of Canada the water is 16 metres deeper than when the tide goes out.

In the Caribbean Sea the change in depth between high and low tide is only 10 centimetres.