

Oceans contain 97% of the water on the Earth and are home to a huge number of living creatures. Most of these creatures, about 90% of them, live near the water's surface, where the pressure is not so great and they can get some light.



## Key vocabulary

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### **salinity**

Saltiness, or the amount of salt in something.

### **gas**

A substance, such as air, that will spread to fill any space that contains it.

### **mineral**

A substance found in nature that is not an animal or a plant. Gold, salt, and copper are all minerals.

## Related articles

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### The Water Cycle

You probably see rain or snow all the time, but do you know how water gets back up into the sky? The water cycle makes sure water gets where it needs to go.



### The Ocean Floor

You might have thought Mount Everest was the Earth's tallest mountain, but that is not quite true. The Earth's tallest mountains and deepest valleys are all beneath the ocean's surface!



### Weather & Climate

Want to know whether to take along your umbrella? Consult the weather. But then, what is climate for? We are here to tell you!



### Waves & Currents

Waves and currents are different, but they work together. They give the ocean a lot of its motion.



### Clouds & Precipitation

Do the clouds in the sky mean it will snow, or is a thunderstorm coming? Find out how precipitation works, and you will know!



### Tides

The ocean does not always stay the same depth. Sometimes it is deep, and other times it becomes shallow. Do you know why?