

My Ocean Science Journal

Grades K - 5

Weekly Writing Prompt #1

Ocean Literacy Principle #1

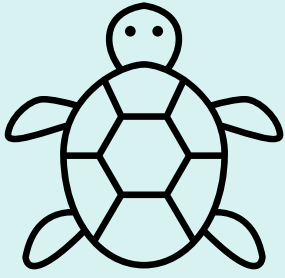
The Earth has one big ocean with many features.



Photo Credit: NASA

Science Facts

Throughout the ocean, there is one interconnected circulation system powered by wind, tides, the force of the Earth's rotation (Coriolis effect), the Sun, and water density differences. The shape of ocean basins and adjacent land masses influence the path of circulation. This "global ocean conveyor belt" moves water throughout all of the ocean's basins, transporting energy (heat), matter, and organisms around the ocean. Changes in ocean circulation have a large impact on the climate and cause changes in ecosystems.



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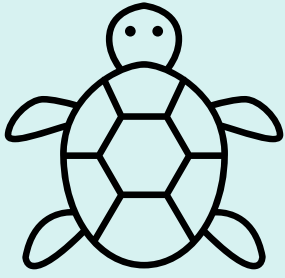
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Weekly Writing Prompt #1

What Do You Think?

Water in the ocean is constantly moving around. Some animals, like sea turtles, travel with the water for very far distances every year. Why do you think a sea turtle would migrate to warmer water in the winter when it gets colder?

Write your response here:



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Weekly Writing Prompt #2

Ocean Literacy Principle #2

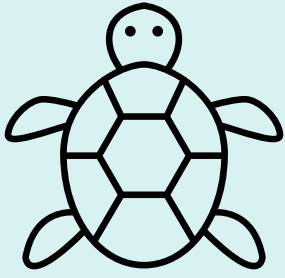
The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth.



Photo Credit: American Geosciences Institute

Science Facts

Tectonic activity, sea level changes, and force of waves influence the physical structure and landforms of the coast.



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Weekly Writing Prompt #2

Try This!

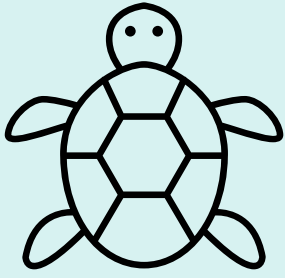
A long time ago, more than half of South Carolina was covered by the ocean. Draw a picture of what your school might look like if it was under water and write a couple of sentences about what kinds of animals would live there.



Photo Credit: [SCDNR](#)

Draw here:

Write here:



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Weekly Writing Prompt #3

Ocean Literacy Principle #3

The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.

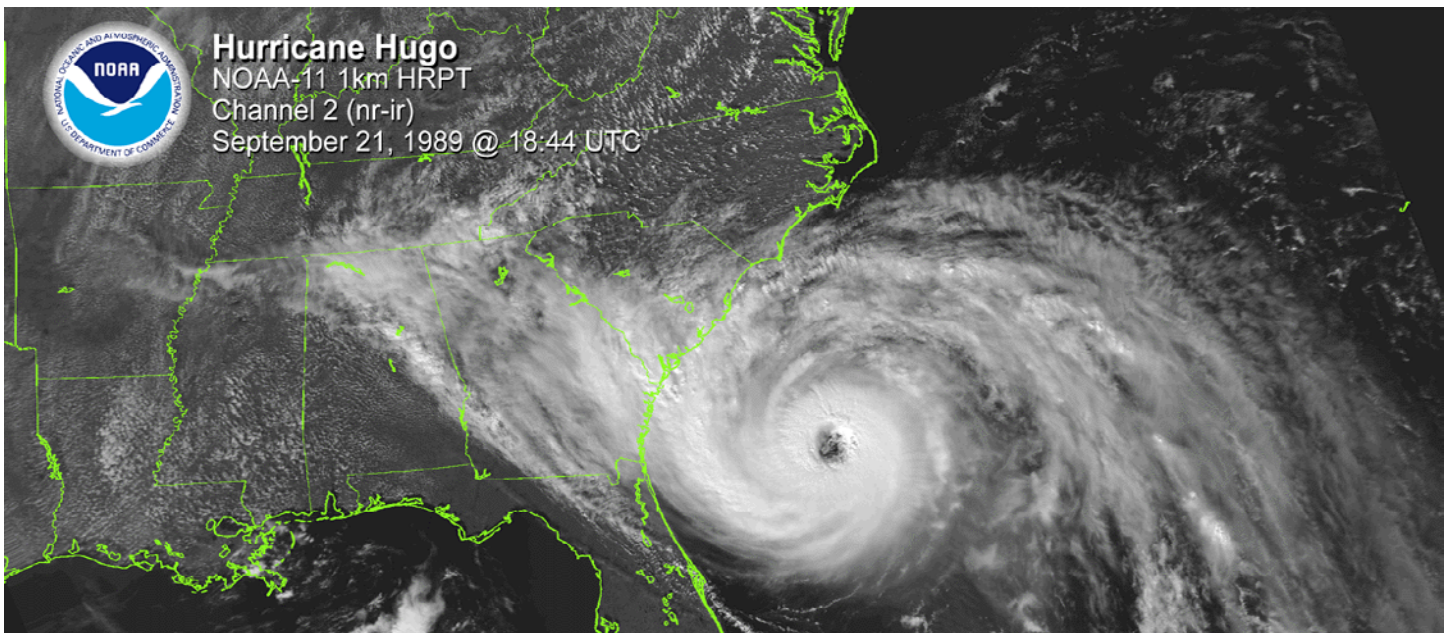
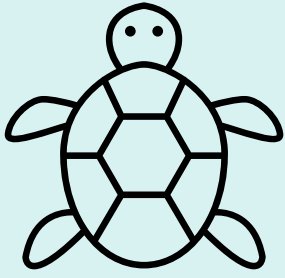


Photo Credit: weather.gov

Science Facts

Condensation of water that evaporated from warm seas provides the energy for hurricanes and cyclones. Most rain that falls on land originally evaporated from the tropical ocean.



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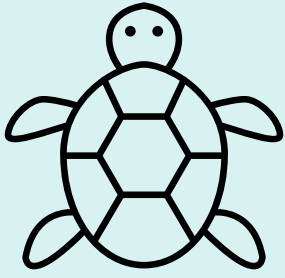
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Weekly Writing Prompt #3

What Do You Think?

If you lived near the ocean, how do you think hurricanes would make you feel? Name 2-3 ways we can help people who have been in a hurricane.

Write your response here:



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Weekly Writing Prompt #4

Ocean Literacy Principle #4

The ocean made Earth habitable.

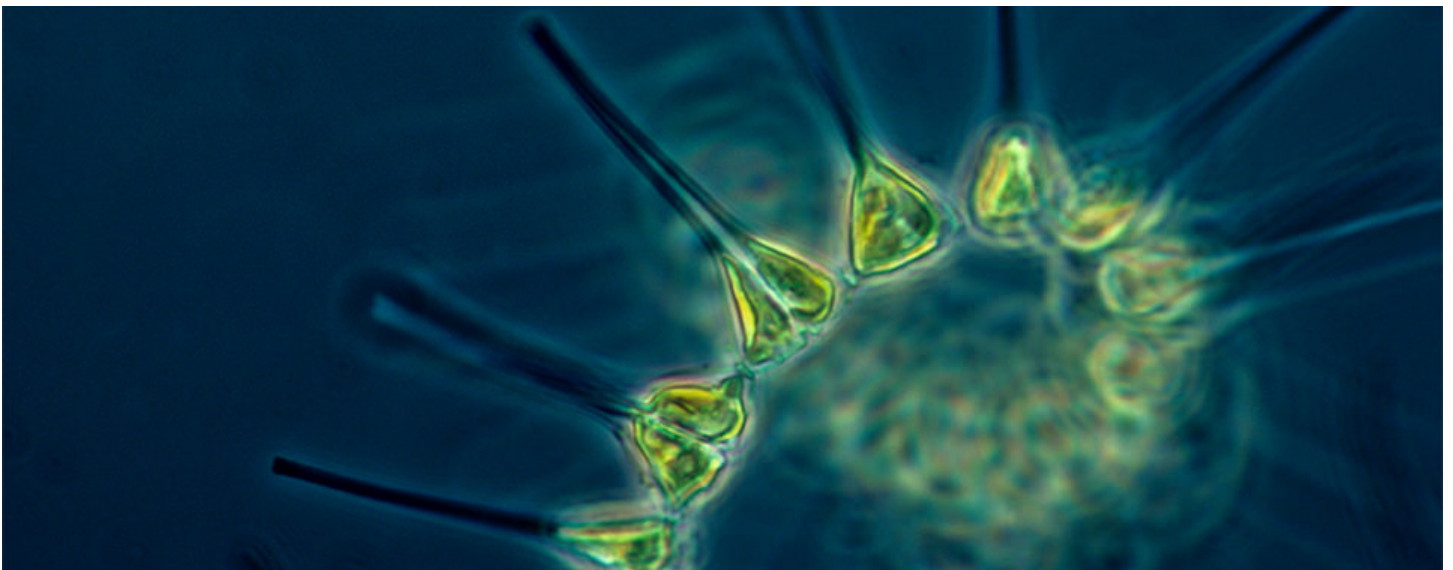
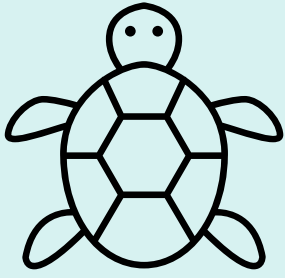


Photo Credit: NOAA

Science Facts

The first life is thought to have started in the ocean. The earliest evidence of life is found in the ocean.



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Weekly Writing Prompt #4

Try This!

All animals need food, air, water, and shelter to live. Think of an animal that lives in the ocean and describe where it gets all of these things.

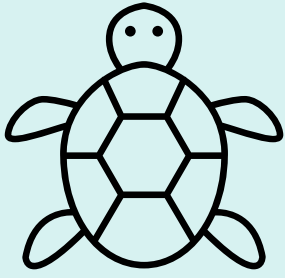
What animal did you choose?: _____

Food

Water

Air

Shelter



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Weekly Writing Prompt #5

Ocean Literacy Principle #5

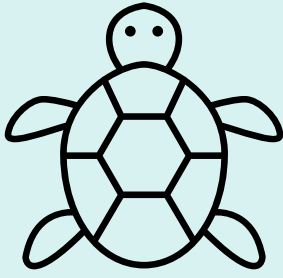
The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.



Photo Credit: NOAA Fisheries

Science Facts

Ocean life ranges in size from the smallest living things, microbes, to the largest animals that have lived on Earth, blue whales.



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Weekly Writing Prompt #5

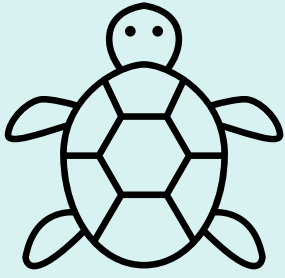
Try This!

Draw a picture of the biggest ocean animal you can think of. Now draw a picture of a very tiny ocean animal. What things are different about these two animals? What things are the same?

Draw your big and small animals here:

Things that are different:

Things that are the same:



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Weekly Writing Prompt #6

Ocean Literacy Principle #5

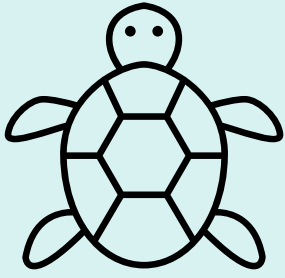
The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.



Photo Credit: E.V. Bell

Science Facts

Estuaries provide important and productive nursery areas for many marine and aquatic species.



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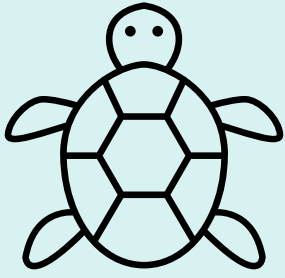
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Weekly Writing Prompt #6

What Do You Think?

In South Carolina we have a lot of salt marsh estuaries that are important nursery areas for shrimp, fish, and other ocean animals. What do you think it means for an estuary to be a nursery area? Why is it important for animals to have a nursery?

Write your response here:



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Weekly Writing Prompt #7

Ocean Literacy Principle #6

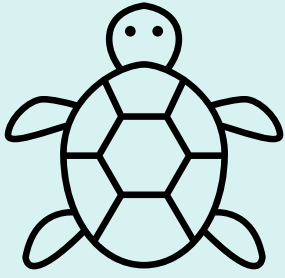
The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.



Photo Credit: NOAA

Background Info

Everyone is responsible for caring for the ocean. The ocean sustains life on Earth, and humans must live in ways that sustain the ocean. Individual and collective actions are needed to effectively manage ocean resources for all.



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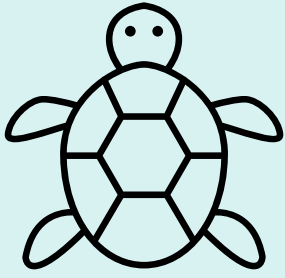
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Weekly Writing Prompt #7

What Do You Think?

The things that people do on land can affect living things in the sea. Think of something you can do with your class to make the ocean a safer place for all of the things who live there.

Write your response here:



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Weekly Writing Prompt #8

Ocean Literacy Principle #6

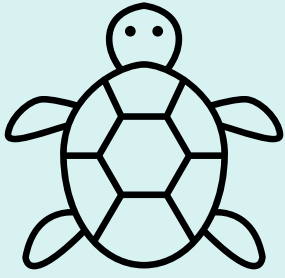
The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.



Photo Credit: U.S. Department of Transportation

Background Info

Much of the world's population lives in coastal areas. Coastal regions are susceptible to natural hazards (tsunamis, hurricanes, cyclones, sea level change, and storm surges).



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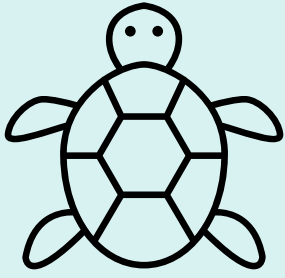
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Weekly Writing Prompt #8

What Do You Think?

Lots of people like to live along the coast. Would you like to live near the ocean? Why or why not?

Write your response here:



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Weekly Writing Prompt #9

Ocean Literacy Principle #7

The ocean is largely unexplored.

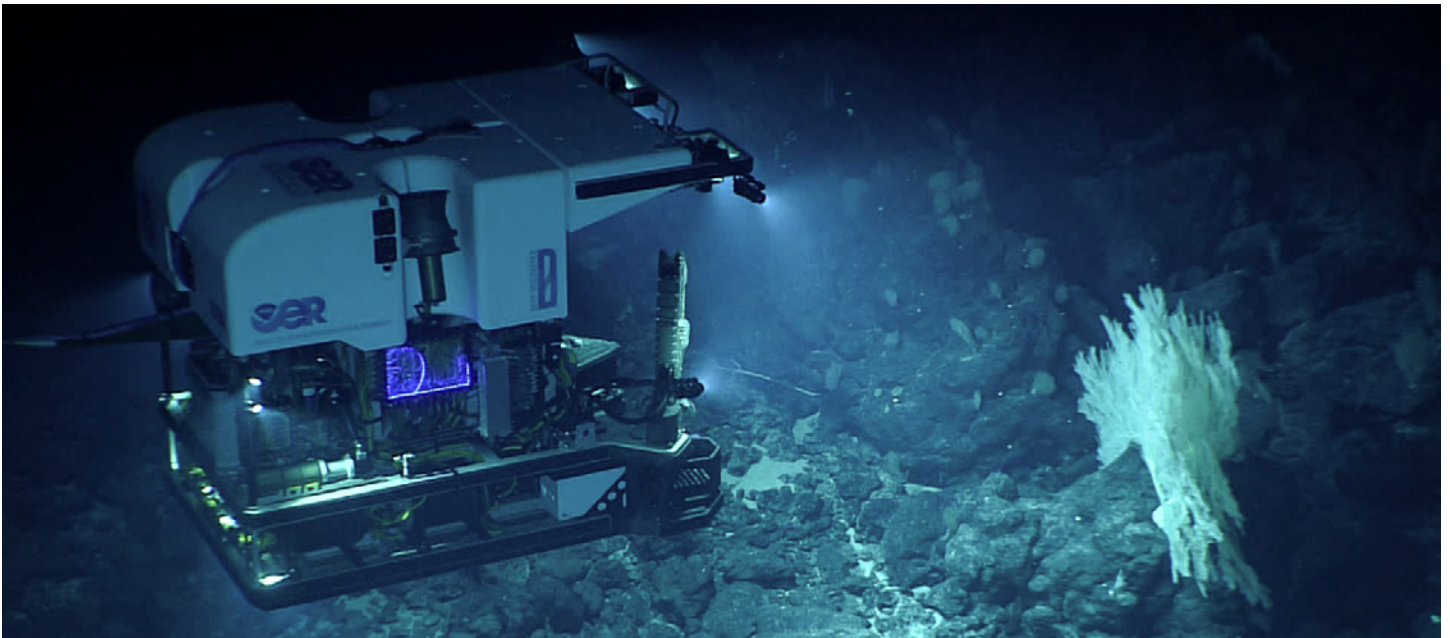
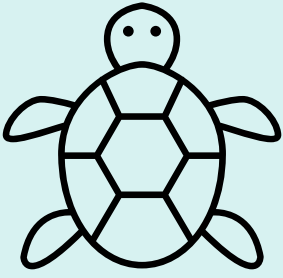


Photo Credit: NOAA

Background Info

New technologies, sensors, and tools are expanding our ability to explore the ocean system. Scientists are relying more and more on satellites, drifters, buoys, subsea observatories, remotely operated vehicles, and manned submersibles.



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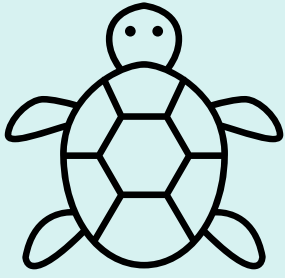
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Weekly Writing Prompt #9

Try This!

Scientists can use submarines and other technology to help them explore the bottom of the ocean. Describe what scientists might see when they travel to the deep ocean.

Write your response here:



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Weekly Writing Prompt #10

Ocean Literacy Principle #7

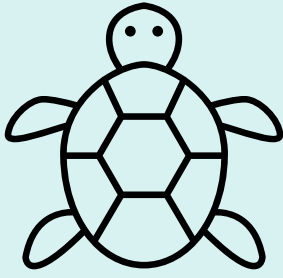
The ocean is largely unexplored.



Photo Credit: The Ocean Cleanup

Background Info

Ocean exploration is truly interdisciplinary. It requires close collaboration among biologists, chemists, climatologists, computer programmers, engineers, geologists, meteorologists, physicists, animators, and illustrators. These interactions foster new ideas and new perspectives for inquiries.



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Weekly Writing Prompt #10

What Do You Think?

In ocean science, all kinds of people have to work together. Why is it important for different groups of people to work together? Do you work together in school with friends who are different from you?

Write your response here: