

My Ocean Science Journal

Grades 9 - 12

Weekly Writing Prompt #1

Ocean Literacy Principle #1

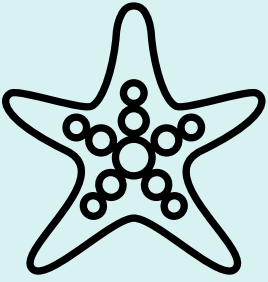
The Earth has one big ocean with many features.



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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Writing Prompt

The “global ocean conveyor belt” has a large impact on the ecosystems of the world. What might happen if this conveyor belt slowed down and no longer transported heat, matter, and organisms around the ocean?