

Name: _____

Test Date: _____

Oceans and Undersea Life

Study Guide

The Water Planet:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ of Earth's surface is covered with water.
- Locate the 4 major oceans.
- Oceans contain salt water.
- Fresh water is found in rivers, lakes, ponds, and streams.
- Most of Earth's water is salt water.

Tides:

- Tides are primarily caused by the gravitational pull of the moon on the oceans.
- When the level of the water moves high onto the shore, it is called high tide.
- When the water level drops and the edge of the water moves farther away from the shore, it is called low tide.
- High and low tides generally occur in the same place on the ocean about twice every day.

Waves and Ocean Currents

- Waves are caused by the wind pushing the surface of the water.
- An ocean current is water that moves in a stream through the ocean.
- The Gulf Stream is a large ocean current of warm water that flows north up the east coast of the United States.

Undersea Landscape:

- The bottom of the ocean is called the ocean floor.
- There are volcanoes, mountains, canyons, hills, plains, and deep trenches on the ocean floor.

Undersea Life:

- There are many different kinds of organisms living in the ocean, such as: plankton, whales, lobsters, starfish, etc.
- Some organisms are microscopic while others are extremely large.

Dangers to Ocean Life:

- overfishing, pollution, and oil spills can cause a lot of damage to ocean life

Vocabulary

- Current: water or air moving in a definite direction
- Organism: a living thing
- Plankton: tiny plants and animals that are at the bottom of an aquatic food chain
- Food Chain: the relationship of living things as food sources for other living things in an environment
- Coast/Shore: the land next to the water and places where the land meets water
- Pollution: things that are added to an environment which cause harm- trash, chemicals, etc.
- Continental Shelf: a relatively flat expanse of land that extends from the shoreline and slopes down into the ocean. It gets steeper and steeper until it reaches the ocean floor.