



Name _____ Date _____

THE OCEANS

What would it be like to live in the ocean? Many sea animals have found this to be the perfect place to live. Oceans cover more than 75% of Earth's surface. This means that the ocean is the largest habitat on Earth.

There are four oceans. They are the Pacific, Indian, Atlantic, and Arctic Oceans. The four oceans all connect to each other. There are also many seas. Seas are smaller branches of oceans. Some examples of seas are the Caribbean Sea and Mediterranean Sea.

Have you wondered why the ocean is salty? Rivers collect salt as they travel over rocks. The salt filters out into the seas and oceans. It dissolves in the ocean but doesn't evaporate. This means that the salt just builds up over time.

Waves on the surface of the ocean are caused by the wind. The stronger the wind, the stronger the waves will be. Waves only move up and down. Waves do not represent a flow of water.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why is the ocean salty?
 - a. Salt is generated in the ocean.
 - b. The salt lies at the bottom of the ocean.
 - c. The ocean collects salt from rivers.
 - d. The waves create the salt.
2. What is the meaning of the word *dissolve*?

a. build up	c. refuse to discuss
b. encourage	d. dissipate
3. Why is the ocean Earth's largest habitat?
 - a. It fights gravity.
 - b. It emits a powerful force.
 - c. It makes up 75% of Earth's surface.
 - d. It is part of the Caribbean Sea.
4. Which of the following statements was not mentioned in the passage?
 - a. The wind makes the waves.
 - b. The waves only move up and down.
 - c. The waves keep things in the ocean moving.