What is an ocean?

Teacher Mary

Glossary:

Basin: a depression in the earth's surface containing water.
Earthquake: vibrations in the earth's crust causing the ground to shake.
Vast: enormous.

The Earth is covered in so much water that from space our planet looks blue.

This water is called the ocean. It covers most of the Earth's surface. The ocean is so vast and deep that large areas of it are still unexplored. Unlike the water in rivers and lakes, ocean water is salty.

Ocean water is constantly moving. It can be blown by the wind, pulled by the gravity of the moon, or pushed around by an earthquake.

The ocean is one big area of water, but we split it into five basins: Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, and Southern. They are all connected.

Ocean water is always moving. But how it moves depends on many things, including wind speed and direction, water temperature and depth, and even the actions of the moon.

Water is coldest at the North and South poles.

When wind blows over the surface of water, waves form. Sometimes, when the conditions are right, giant waves are created. Surfers travel from all over the world to ride big waves.

When something like an earthquake moves a large volume of water, a tsunami is created. Tsunamis are huge waves that can travel very quickly and do a lot of damage on land.

Read the sentences. Then click T (true) or F (false).

Our planet looks blue from space.	T	F
Water covering the Earth is called surface.	T	F
Water in rivers and lakes are salty.	T	F
Ocean water is always moving.	T	F
Ocean water causes earthquakes.	T	F
There are five basins: Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, and American.	T	F
Water at the North pole is warm.	T	F
Wind forms waves over the surface of water.	T	F
Surfers ride waves.	T	F
Tsunamis are huge and dangerous waves.	T	F

French, J. (2021). *Earth's incredible Oceans*. DK Publishing.

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