

World oceans



Use research to complete the sheet and answer the enquiry, ‘How are polar oceans different from other oceans on Earth?’

	Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Indian Ocean	Arctic Ocean	Southern Ocean
Location	Separates Canada, the USA and South America from Asia and Australia, and extends from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Southern Ocean in the south.	Separates Canada, the USA and South America from Europe and Africa, and extends from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Southern Ocean in the south.	Lies south of Asia between Africa and Australia and adjoins the Southern Ocean.		
Size	161.3 million km ²	106.5 million km ²	73.4 million km ²		
Range of surface water temperature	-1–30°C	-2–30°C	3–35°C		
Presence of sea ice	some areas	some areas	no ice		
Greatest depth	11,034m	8486m	7450m		
Natural resources	fish, oil, gas, minerals, sand, gravel and pearls	fish, oil, gas, minerals, sand, gravel and gold deposits	fish, oil, gas, minerals, sand and gravel		
Trade, travel and tourism	Nearly half the world’s shipping routes cross the ocean, carrying a wide variety of goods. Islands in the western Pacific are popular tourist destinations.	Key shipping routes transport goods between the Americas and Europe.	Oil tankers transport 17 million barrels of crude oil a day across the ocean. Exotic islands are popular tourist destinations.		
Animals and plants	The Great Barrier Reef is home to thousands of animals including coral, molluscs, sponges, turtles, whales, dolphins, sea birds and 1500 species of fish. Phytoplankton, seaweed and seagrass grow here.	Smaller barrier reefs are home to corals, molluscs, humpback whales, dolphins, turtles, octopi, sharks and fish, such as cod and tuna. Phytoplankton, seaweed and seagrass grow here.	Smaller barrier reefs and islands made of coral are home to sharks, turtles, corals and fish. Phytoplankton, seaweed and seagrass grow here.		
Human impact and pollution	The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is the largest accumulation of sea plastic in the world. Oil pollution and other forms of water pollution are endangering marine life and destroying coral reefs.	The North Atlantic Garbage Patch lies off the coast of North America. Oil pollution and other forms of water pollution are endangering marine life and destroying coral reefs. Ship strikes have killed many North Atlantic right whales.	The Indian Ocean Garbage Patch of floating rubbish is suspended in the central Indian Ocean. Overfishing, oil pollution and other forms of water pollution are endangering marine life and destroying coral reefs.		