

Mrs. Courtney's Class: Name _____ Date _____

World's Oceans Project

Make a bar graph to display the average depth of each ocean rounded to the thousands place.

Research one of the deepest places in the world's oceans and write a one page report to be presented to the class. In the report describe the ocean in which this place is located and some special characteristics of this place.

	Area (square miles)	Average Depth (ft)	Deepest depth (ft)
Pacific Ocean	64,186,000	15,215	Mariana Trench, 36,200 ft deep
Atlantic Ocean	33,420,000	12,881	Puerto Rico Trench, 28,231 ft deep
Indian Ocean	28,350,000	13,002	Java Trench, 25,344 ft deep
Southern Ocean	7,848,300	14,750	The southern end of the South Sandwich Trench, 23,736 ft deep
Arctic Ocean	5,106,000	3,953	Eurasia Basin, 17,881 ft deep

Oceans cover about 70% of the Earth's surface. The oceans contain roughly 98% of the Earth's water supply. About 98% of the water on Earth is salt water, leaving only 2% of usable fresh water. Of that 2% of fresh water, about 70% is frozen in glaciers, leaving only about 30% for use on the Earth's surface. This includes the water in rivers, lakes, streams, swamps, ground water and permafrost. (Source UNESCO Paris, 1999)

The oceans of Earth are unique in our Solar System. No other planet in our Solar System has liquid water (although recent finds on Mars indicate that Mars may have had some liquid water in the past). Life on Earth may have originated in the seas, and the oceans continue to be home to an incredibly diverse web of life.

The oceans of Earth serve many functions, especially affecting the weather and temperature. They moderate the Earth's temperature by absorbing incoming solar radiation (stored as heat energy). The always-moving ocean currents distribute this heat energy around the globe. This heats the land and air during winter and cools it during summer.

	Area (square miles)	Round to the Millions Place
Pacific Ocean	64,186,000	
Atlantic Ocean	33,420,000	
Indian Ocean	28,350,000	
Southern Ocean	7,848,300	
Arctic Ocean	5,106,000	