

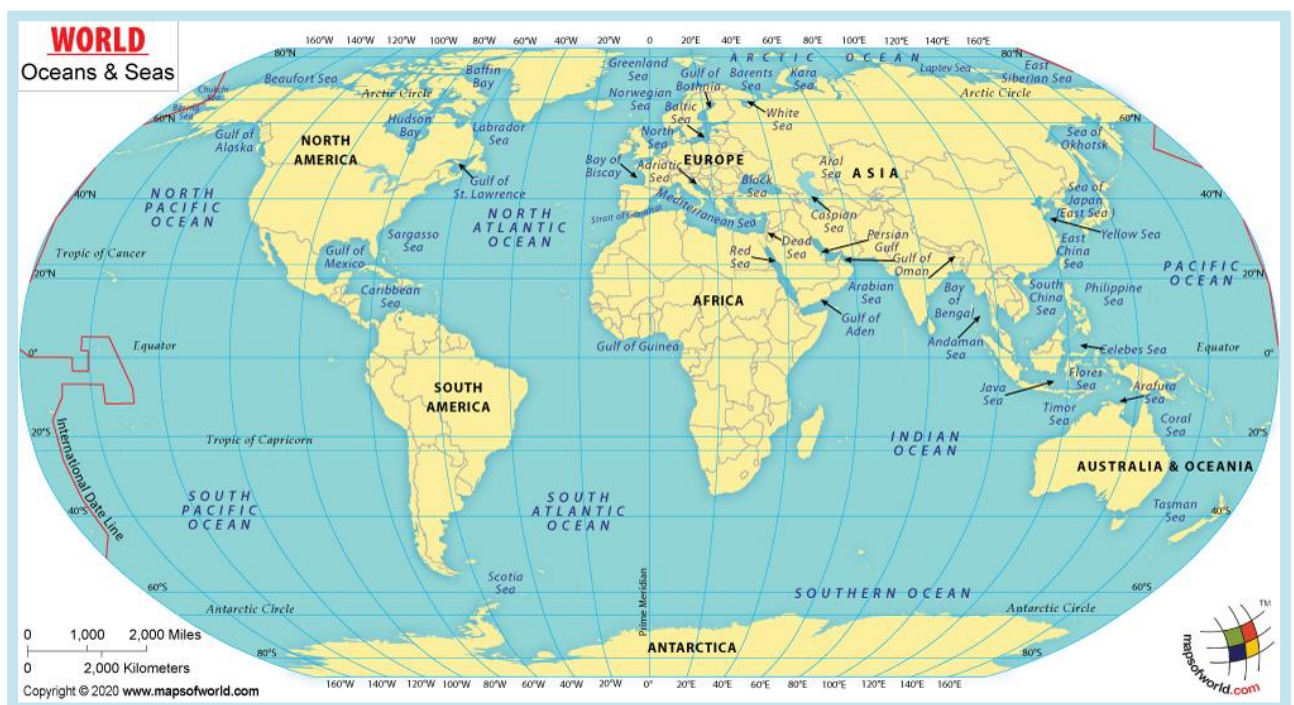
# Our Amazing Oceans Fact Sheet

Use this fact sheet to see if the statements on the 'True or False' activity sheet were correct. How many did you get right? Are there any that surprised you?

## Statements:

**Half of our planet is covered by oceans, and half by land.**

This statement is **false!** As you can see in the image below, our planet is very much a blue planet, with about 70% covered by water, almost all of which is in the oceans.



**94% of all life on our planet lives in our oceans!**

This statement is **false**, although a huge estimated 50-80% of all life on earth is found under the ocean surface and the oceans contain 99% of the living space on the planet.

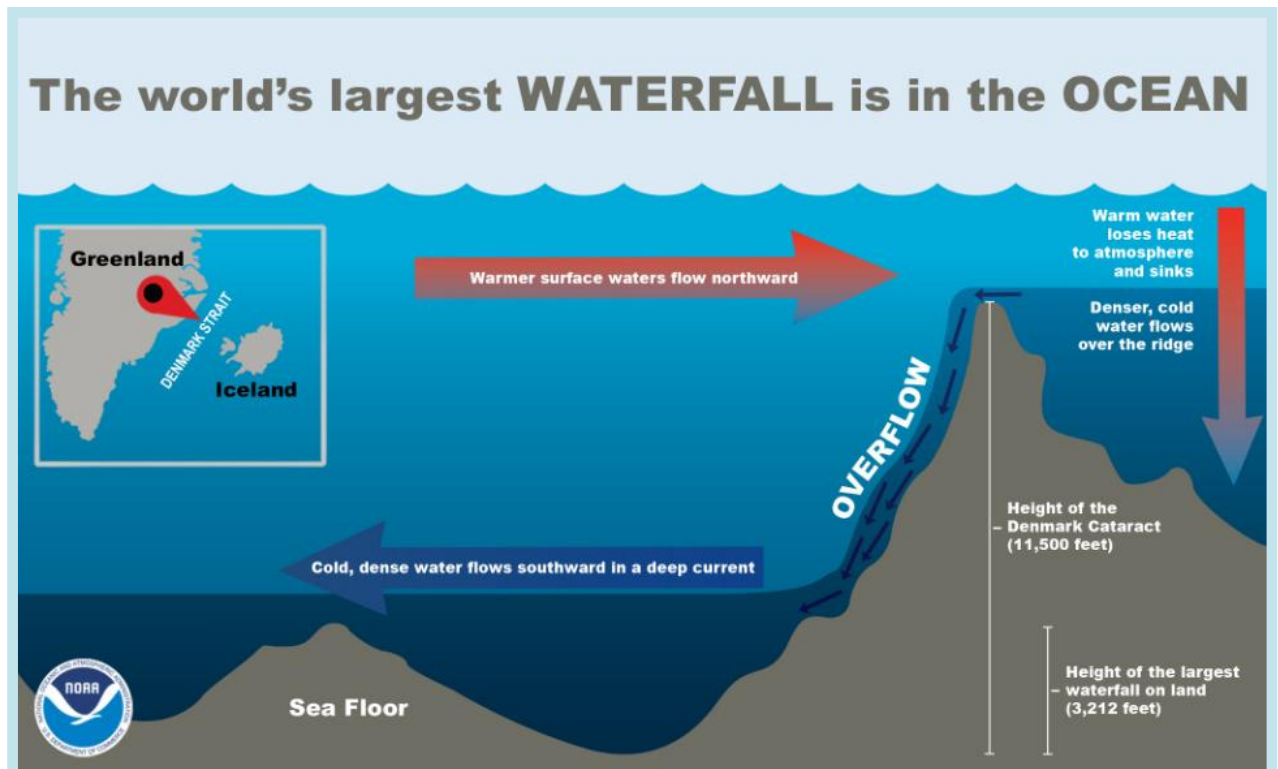
**More people have been to the Moon than have been to the deepest part of our oceans, the Mariana Trench!**

This statement is **true!** More people have walked on the moon – 12 in total - than visited the bottom of the Mariana Trench, which lies at a depth of 35,853 feet. Only seven people have ever been there!



There are rivers, waterfalls, lakes, and our planet's longest mountain range is found under the ocean's surface.

Surprisingly perhaps, this statement is **true!** The world's longest mountain range, called the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, is actually under the ocean. Similar to land, there are rivers and lakes within oceans, and amazingly, the largest waterfall in the world is actually underwater: The Denmark Straight Cataract.



We have explored nearly all of the oceans and know a lot about them.

This statement is **false!** Because the oceans are so big and difficult for humans to explore, about two-thirds of all marine life remains unidentified. New species are constantly being discovered, recent discoveries have included what may be the world's ugliest fish, as well as a ghostly octopod and a "ninja" shark that can glow in the dark.



The Blobfish (left) and the Ninja Lanternshark (right) both live in the deep ocean.



**Nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the oxygen we breathe comes from oceans.**

This is **true!** Scientists estimate that 50-80% of the oxygen production on Earth comes from the ocean. Most is made by oceanic plankton — drifting plants, algae, and some bacteria that can **photosynthesise** (the process in which green plants use sunlight to make their own food for survival – using light, carbon dioxide, and water).



**The Atlantic Ocean is the largest ocean.**

This statement is **false!** The Pacific Ocean (below) is the largest ocean, covering approximately 59 million square miles. It covers about one-third of the Earth's surface and is almost twice the size of our nearest ocean, the Atlantic Ocean. The Mariana Trench, the deepest part of our oceans, is found here.

