

Video
MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Why the Ocean Matters

A Healthy Ocean Means a Healthy Planet

For the complete videos with media resources, visit:
<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/media/why-ocean-matters/>

With every breath we take, every drop we drink, we're connected to the **ocean**. Our planet depends on the vitality of the ocean to support and sustain it. But our ocean faces major threats: global **climate** change, pollution, habitat destruction, invasive species, and a dramatic decrease in ocean fish stocks. These threats to the ocean are so extensive that more than 40 percent of the ocean has been severely affected and no area has been left untouched. Consequently, humanity is losing the food, jobs, and critical environmental services that a healthy ocean generates. National Geographic Society's Ocean Initiative aims to restore health and productivity to the ocean by inspiring people to care and act, reducing the **impact** of fishing, and promoting the creation of marine protected areas.

Watch this video during formal or informal instruction to explain to students why a healthier ocean means a healthier planet. Covering 72 percent of the Earth and supplying half its **oxygen**, the ocean is our planet's life support system. This video dives into why the ocean is important and some of the biggest threats it faces.

VOCABULARY

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
climate	<i>noun</i>	all weather conditions for a given location over a period of time.
conservation	<i>noun</i>	management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.
coral reef	<i>noun</i>	rocky ocean features made up of millions of coral skeletons.
dead zone	<i>noun</i>	area of low oxygen in a body of water.
Explorer-in-Residence	<i>noun</i>	pre-eminent explorers and scientists collaborating with the National Geographic Society to make groundbreaking discoveries that generate critical scientific information, conservation-related initiatives and compelling stories.
impact	<i>noun</i>	meaning or effect.
marine protected area (MPA)	<i>noun</i>	area of the ocean where a government has placed limits on human activity.
national park	<i>noun</i>	geographic area protected by the national government of a country.
nature	<i>noun</i>	environment or ecosystem, usually without human development.

ocean	<i>noun</i>	large body of salt water that covers most of the Earth.
oxygen	<i>noun</i>	chemical element with the symbol O, whose gas form is 21% of the Earth's atmosphere.
vulnerable	<i>adjective</i>	capable of being hurt.

For Further Exploration

Articles & Profiles

- National Geographic Explorers: Robert Ballard, Ocean Explorer
- National Geographic Explorers: Enric Sala, Marine Ecologist
- National Geographic Explorers: Sylvia Earle, Oceanographer

Websites

- National Geographic: The Ocean
- National Geographic: The Ocean: Critical Issues



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