

Ocean Literacy Survey

Sources of Information:

Circle the two or three ways you have learned most about the ocean (before this class):

- a) formal education: a whole course in ocean science
- b) formal education: just touched on ocean science in other courses
- c) informal education: aquariums and museums
- d) informal education: a camp or the Ocean Science Bowl
- e) personal experience: actually going to the beach
- f) friends and family: in conversation
- g) media: TV and movies
- h) media: internet, magazines, newspapers
- i) other: _____

How many times each year do you watch a TV show that teaches about the science of the ocean?

<1 1-3 4-10 10-20 20-50 >50

How many times each year do you visit the ocean beach or shore?

<1 1-3 4-10 10-20 20-50 >50

How many times each year do you visit an aquarium, zoo or museum where you might learn about the ocean?

<1 1-3 4-10 10-20 20-50 >50

Essay Question: List 2-5 things you already do, or would be willing to do to protect the ocean. Try to describe the specific impact each action would have on the ocean.

Essay Question: Tell me what interests you about the ocean, and what you would like to learn about in this class. You may use your latest trip to the ocean as a starting point.

Ocean Science Questions

- 1) Which of these statements best describes the depth of the ocean?
 - a) the ocean is like a thin skin on the surface of the earth
 - b) the depth of the ocean is about 1/10 the diameter of the earth
 - c) the depth of the ocean is about 1/2 the diameter of the earth

- 2) Approximately how much of the Earth is covered with ocean?
 - a) 30%
 - b) 50%
 - c) 70%
 - d) 90%

- 3) Approximately what fraction of the total water on earth is in the ocean?
 - a) 4%
 - b) 34%
 - c) 52%
 - d) 67%
 - e) 72%
 - f) 89%
 - g) 97%
 - h) 99.999 %

- 4) When your toilet flushes, the water swirls around. Would it swirl in the opposite direction in Australia? (or in the northern hemisphere if you're in the southern hemisphere)
 - a) yes
 - b) no

- 5) Where is a greater diversity of living organisms found?
 - a) on land
 - b) in the ocean
 - c) both equally

- 6) Which of the following groups of organisms would be more closely related?
 - a) fish, jellyfish, starfish, crayfish
 - b) spider, crab, insect, mouse
 - c) human, cat, dog, manatee
 - d) alligator, shark, bony fish, pelican

- 7) If our planet were without its ocean, but otherwise the same as it is today, would surface temperatures be *more* extreme than they are now (warmer summers and colder winters), or *less* extreme, or what?
 - a) more extreme
 - b) less extreme
 - c) about the same as we know today
 - d) impossible to tell without more information

- 8) If all the floating sea-ice on earth melted, about how much would sea level rise?
 - a) not at all
 - b) 10 meters
 - c) 100 meters
 - d) 1000 meters
 - e) more than 1000 meters

- 9) Which of these sources puts the **most** oil in the ocean?
 - a) oil spills at sea
 - b) leaks from oil refineries and pipelines
 - c) used motor oil that runs into storm drains

- 10) About how old is planet Earth?
 - a) 5000 years
 - b) 5,000,000 years
 - c) 5,000,000,000 years

Attitudes about Oceanography

Here are a number of statements that may or may not describe your beliefs about learning oceanography and protecting the ocean. You are asked to rate each statement by selecting a number between 1 and 5 where the numbers mean the following:

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

Choose one of the above five choices that best expresses your feeling about the statement. If you don't understand a statement, leave it blank. If you have no strong opinion, choose 3.

- _____ Thinking like a scientist helps me understand the ocean.
- _____ Spending a lot of time understanding why the ocean behaves and reacts the way it does is a waste of time.²
- _____ Learning oceanography changes my ideas about how the world works.²
- _____ Reasoning skills used to understand oceanography can be helpful to me in my everyday life.²
- _____ My actions can have a significant effect on the health of oceans and coastal areas.
- _____ I have a personal responsibility to work for the health of the oceans and coastal areas.
- _____ I know some specific things I could do to help the ocean.
- _____ I am familiar with the environmental issues facing the coastal areas in my home state
- _____ I am familiar with the issues facing the global ocean.
- _____ I have enough background knowledge to write a substantive letter to my congressional representative about an issue affecting the ocean.
- _____ The oceans and coastal regions overall are so vast and healthy that they can continue to absorb pollution and other kinds of man-made stresses for the foreseeable future.¹
- _____ Human-made stresses are endangering coastal regions and the ocean's ability to sustain itself and may well be leading to long-term damage and serious problems.³
- _____ The health of the oceans is essential to human survival.²
- _____ What I do in my life doesn't impact the ocean at all.⁴

¹ AAAS Public Opinion Survey

² Ocean Project Public Opinion Survey