

# Why do oceans matter?

## GEOGRAPHY OVERVIEW

Oceans are a key part of the water cycle and impact our lives in many ways. They provide us with food, jobs, ingredients for medicine and allow us to trade and travel. In addition, they help to regulate the Earth's temperature and climate. Human activity continues to pollute our oceans, however, there are things we can do to combat this and make our oceans healthier. The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is the world's largest coral reef. The Great Barrier Reef: is home to over 1500 marine species; provides us with food and jobs; can provide a barrier from storms; and reduces erosion of the sea bed. Climate change is now threatening The Great Barrier Reef.

Why are our oceans suffering?



## KEY VOCABULARY

atmosphere

biodegradable

buffer

coral bleaching

coral reef

decompose

digital map

disposable

ecology

ecosystem

erosion

geology

habitat

human footprint

# Why do oceans matter?

## Core Knowledge

- Oceans are used for trading between countries
- Ocean currents influence our weather
- Oceans provide food and jobs
- Oceans are used for fun activities
- Oceans give us ingredients for medicines
- Oceans absorb carbon dioxide and warm our planet
- Coral reefs act as a buffer to natural disasters
- Coral reefs are home to a quarter of our marine species

ocean current	The movement of a large area of seawater driven by the wind, gravity and water density.
coral reef	A large rock structure in the ocean formed by corals.
coral bleaching	A process which turns coral white, losing its colour.
marine	Relating to the ocean.
threat	Something likely to cause damage.
microplastics	Tiny pieces of plastic created from plastic waste.
acidification	The process of making something acidic.
overfishing	The number of fish decreases as a result of extreme amounts of fishing.
biodegradable	When something naturally breaks down and returns to nature.
Marine Protected Area	A designated geographical area of the ocean that is protected and managed.
single-use plastic	Plastic only used once and then thrown away.