An ocean is a very large body of salt water. Earth has five major oceans. The five oceans together cover almost three-fourths of the earth’s surface. That means that if you had a box that was supposed to be the whole world and you divided it into four equal parts, three of them would be the part that is covered with water, and one of the would be the part of the world that would be land. See the picture below:

All of the blue part of the box would be water, and the green part would be land. That really is a lot of water!

The five major oceans all run together at some point. The five major oceans of Earth are:

**Pacific Ocean**—The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean in the world. It goes all the way from Asia to North and South America, and it goes from the Bering Strait between Alaska and Russia which joins it to the Arctic Ocean, all the way south where it joins the Southern Ocean.

**Atlantic Ocean**—The Atlantic Ocean is the second-largest ocean in the world. It goes all the way from Europe and Africa to North and South America, and it goes from the Arctic Ocean in the north, all the way south where it joins the Southern Ocean.

**Indian Ocean**—The Indian Ocean is the third-largest ocean in the world. It goes from Africa to Australia and some of the islands of Indonesia and from Asia on the north, all the way south where it joins the Southern Ocean.

**Southern Ocean**—The Southern Ocean is the fourth-largest ocean in the world. It goes all the way around the continent of Antarctica and joins the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans as it goes north.

**Arctic Ocean**—The Arctic Ocean is the smallest ocean in the world. It is very cold and icy. The North Pole is near the center of the Arctic Ocean. It goes south and touches North America, Europe, and Asia.
Below is a map showing the five major oceans of the earth.

There is much life in the oceans, even the Arctic Ocean and the Southern Ocean, which are extremely cold and icy.

Some of the smallest life in the oceans is the plankton. Plankton includes both plantlike and animal like. Plantlike plankton is called phytoplankton. Many are so small you can only see them with a microscope. They are used for food by both small and large marine animals. Some types of phytoplankton are made to live only in the colder water, and even in sea ice. Other types of phytoplankton live in more moderate temperatures. Animal plankton, called zooplankton, includes many types of one-celled life that are not able to swim on their own.

Of course, fish are one of the most common animals found in the oceans of the world. There are over 14,000 kinds of fish that live in the ocean. One of the smallest fish in the world is the goby that lives in the Indian Ocean. It is only about 0.4 inches long. Other fish have special abilities that allow them to live in very deep parts of the ocean. For example, the deep-sea anglerfish and lantern fish are able to produce light with a part of their bodies that helps them attract other types of animals that they can eat. Other fish, including the tuna and mackerel, have a special shape to their bodies that allows them to swim very fast.
Crabs are animals that live in the water, often close to shore, but sometimes at very great depths. One very different type of crab that you will find on tropical islands in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean is the coconut crab. It is the largest land crab in the world. These crabs can weigh up to 9 pounds each and be more than 3 feet across from the tip of one leg to the tip of the opposite leg.

Shrimp are related to crabs. They are found in all parts of the world. Some types live near the coast where they can hide in mud or sand during the day and come out to eat at night. Other types swim in deep, cold water. Shrimp have stiff shells to help protect its body and claws to gather food, to fight, or to dig to make places to hide.

There are several types of seals that live in the oceans. Seals like to live either in very cold water or in areas where the weather is warm, but not hot. Seals live in the oceans near the coasts of islands or continents because they also spend some of their time on land. Most seals like fish as their main food. One type of seal, the southern elephant seal, is found in the Southern Ocean. A male southern elephant seal can weigh as much as 8,800 pounds. They can dive very deep to find their food, sometimes as much as 2,000 feet.

An octopus is an animal that can be a large variety of sizes. Some are only about 2 inches long, while others are 18 feet, with a length from tip to tip of the arms of 30 feet. Octopi like to live on the bottom of the ocean but are sometimes seen at different depths. They have eight arms and very complex eyes. An octopus can eject a substance that is like a type of ink that can be used as a screen. Sometimes the inky substance even has something in it that can partially paralyze the attacker. Some octopi have cells that have a pigment that can help it change color.
All About the World
Unit Two

Major Geographical Features of the Earth

Asia

While the Himalayan mountain range in Asia contains the highest mountains in the world, it is not the largest mountain range. It extends for about 1,550 miles and separates what is referred to as the Indian Subcontinent from the rest of Asia. The Indian Subcontinent includes India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and parts of Pakistan, although it is not determined just how much of Pakistan is included. There are more than 100 mountain peaks in the Himalayas that are at least 24,000 feet above sea level.

The highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest, which is about 29,035 feet high, is located in the Himalaya Mountains. Mount Annapurna, also in the Himalayas, is the tenth-highest peak in the world, rising to about 26,545 feet. The peak of Mount Annapurna was reached before Mount Everest was climbed to its highest peak. Mount Annapurna was climbed to its highest peak in 1950, but the highest peak on Mount Everest was not reached until 1953 when Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first men ever known to have reached the summit.

On the map of Asia, mark the location of the Himalayan mountain range dark brown. Then, mark the location of Mount Everest and Mount Annapurna on the map on the mountain range.

The Rub’ al Khali Desert is considered to be the world’s largest sand sea, as it covers an area larger than France and is located across Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. It is actually 15 times smaller than the world’s largest desert, though. Humans generally only live on the edges of the desert because it is so hard to find any food or water once in the desert.

The Gobi Desert is located across large parts of Mongolia and China. It is the third-largest desert in the world and the largest desert in Asia. The Gobi Desert does not get much rain because the location of the Himalaya Mountains prevents rain from reaching that area.

On the map of Asia, mark the location of the Rub’ al Khali desert and the Gobi Desert.
The Atlas Mountains is a group of mountain ranges that runs for more than 1,200 miles from Morocco to Tunisia in the northwestern part of Africa. The highest peak in these mountains is Mount Toubkal which is approximately 13,665 feet high. The highest mountain in Africa is Mount Kilimanjaro. It is 19,340 feet high. Kilimanjaro is a volcanic mountain in northeastern Tanzania, near the border with Kenya. Kilimanjaro is part of the East African Rift System, which is not actually a mountain range, but a system of faults in the surface of the earth that has produced many volcanoes.

Africa contains the largest desert in the world. The Sahara Desert covers almost one-third of Africa and is approximately 3,500,000 square miles in size. It gets almost no rainfall, but a few underground rivers help to provide oases in isolated areas. In the Sahara, the Nile River helps to give much needed water to parts of the desert.

The Kalahari Desert is also a well-known, if not as large, desert in Africa. It covers all of western Namibia and part of Botswana and South Africa.

Africa contains the longest river in the world. More than 4,000 miles long, the Nile River starts in the highlands of southeastern Africa and drains into the Mediterranean Sea. It consists of many streams, swamps, tributaries, and waterfalls.

The second longest river in Africa is the Congo River. It runs through the Congo River Basin, which contains a very large rainforest. The Congo Rainforest is the second-largest rainforest in the world. Some of the animals that are found only in this rainforest are the Congo peafowl, bonobo, and dryas monkey.

Draw the Atlas Mountains on the map that follows the information about Africa and mark the approximate location of Mount Toubkal. Then mark the approximate location of Mount Kilimanjaro on the map also.

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Show the location of the Sahara Desert on the map. See how large it is and how much of the continent it covers. Also show the location of the Kalahari Desert on the map.

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Draw the Nile River and the Congo River on the map following the information about Africa. Color the area of the Congo Rainforest dark green.
Unit Two—Geographical Features: Activity One

Match the name of the mountain to the continent you would find it on. Continents can be used more than once.

_____Mount Everest 1. Asia
_____Aconcagua 2. Africa
_____Mt. Denali (Mt. McKinley) 3. North America
_____Mount Annapurna 4. South America
_____Mount Kosciuszko 5. Antarctica
_____Mount Toubkal 6. Europe
_____Mt. Rainier 7. Australia
_____Mount Kilimanjaro
_____Mt. Erebus
_____Mt. Elbrus
_____Mt. Hood
_____Mt. Vinson
_____Mt. St. Helens