

Oceans and the Environment

Around one million species of _____ are believed to live in the ocean. Oceans are home to a wide array of different habitats: Life on the ocean floor is very different from that near the _____. From the incredible starfish, which can regenerate lost limbs, to the largest animal ever to have lived on the planet, the blue whale, there is an amazing _____ of animal life in the oceans.

Coral reefs only cover about 1% of the ocean floor, but they provide a habitat for thousands of animal species. The _____ itself is made from coral animals that attach to rocks. Their striking colours come from plant cells that live on them.

Plants that live in the ocean have adaptations that allow them to absorb water and carbon dioxide, as they do not have large _____ systems. Seagrasses are the only _____ plants that can live underwater. They have adapted to tolerate salt water and have developed horizontal stems, called rhizomes, to withstand the pull of the current.

_____ is a type of algae that is very tough so it does not get ripped by the movement of the water. Bladder Wrack is a species of seaweed with little pockets (called bladders) of air so it can _____.

_____ is having a significant impact on the oceans' animals and plants. As the Earth gets warmer, _____ and ice are melting, releasing water into the oceans. As the sea level _____, coastal land disappears beneath the water. In addition, climate change is causing the seawater to be more _____, and the warming of the oceans is causing coral bleaching, where the coral turns white and becomes vulnerable to disease.

Fill in the blank spaces in the text using the words below.

reef	surface
climate change	flowering
animals	glaciers
acidic	float
rises	diversity
root	seaweed



Oceans and the Environment

Around one million species of **animals** are believed to live in the ocean. Oceans are home to a wide array of different habitats: Life on the ocean floor is very different from that near the **surface**. From the incredible starfish, which can regenerate lost limbs, to the largest animal ever to have lived on the planet, the blue whale, there is an amazing **diversity** of animal life in the oceans.

Coral reefs only cover about 1% of the ocean floor, but they provide a habitat for thousands of animal species. The **reef** itself is made from coral animals that attach to rocks. Their striking colours come from plant cells that live on them.

Plants that live in the ocean have adaptations that allow them to absorb water and carbon dioxide, as they do not have large **root** systems. Seagrasses are the only **flowering** plants that can live underwater. They have adapted to tolerate salt water and have developed horizontal stems, called rhizomes, to withstand the pull of the current.

Seaweed is a type of algae that is very tough so it does not get ripped by the movement of the water. Bladder Wrack is a species of seaweed with little pockets (called bladders) of air so it can **float**.

Climate change is having a significant impact on the oceans' animals and plants. As the Earth gets warmer, **glaciers** and ice are melting, releasing water into the oceans. As the sea level **rises**, coastal land disappears beneath the water. In addition, climate change is causing the seawater to be more **acidic**, and the warming of the oceans is causing coral bleaching, where the coral turns white and becomes vulnerable to disease.

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