

- 1> Work in pairs. Do the quiz. Then check the answers with the teacher. What other interesting scientific facts about oceans and seas can you share with your classmates?

FACT OR FICTION?

- 1 There are three oceans on the Earth.
- 2 Oceans and seas cover about 30% of the Earth's surface.
- 3 The Earth's oceans are all connected to one another.
- 4 No other planet in our solar system, except the Earth, has oceans and seas.
- 5 250 million years ago, all the current continents formed one supercontinent surrounded by a single ocean.

- 2> Read the text and explain how the quote by Vincent Van Gogh relates to the content of the first and last paragraphs.

The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.

Vincent Van Gogh

It can hardly be denied that the secrets of oceans have captured our imagination for centuries and there seems to be no end to this. Artists get inspired by their charm, tourists get attracted by their beauty, sailors and fishermen get addicted to their marine lifestyle, and scientists get involved in explaining the mysteries hidden in oceanic depth.

One of the secrets they try to unveil is connected with the taste of oceanic waters. The content of salt in water is referred to as its salinity and it varies from one sea to another. In order to understand why some areas have a different levels of salinity, we need to explain how oceanic waters get salty in the first place.

Mineral salts contained in rocks and soil of river beds are absorbed by water flowing in rivers. Thus, when the water flows into oceans and seas,

it is slightly salty already. Then, this water leaves the oceans by evaporating, but the salt remains. In the case of the saltiest waters of all, in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, the evaporation rate is very high, and very little fresh water flows in. By contrast, in the polar regions, where lots of polar ice melts, and there is a lot of rainfall, water is considerably less salty.

Another intriguing aspect of marine life which remains of great scientific interest are the waves. Interestingly, not all of them are caused by the wind. The wind is only responsible for creating the waves on the surface of the water. Despite appearances, they never move horizontally, but in an upward and downward direction. On the other hand, tsunamis (also known as tidal waves) are caused by underwater earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and landslides. Finally, tides, defined as the regular

rise and fall of large bodies of water, are triggered by the gravitational interaction between the Earth, the Sun and the Moon. Where the Moon is closest to the Earth, it attracts masses of water and makes them bulge out towards it. At the same time, on the opposite side of the globe, the attraction of the Moon is much weaker and inertia makes the water move away from the Earth. As a result, sea levels rise causing high tides. The Earth's rotation, which occurs during this process, explains why two high and low tides occur daily.

The question of how many other mysteries remain hidden in the oceans awaiting discovery and explanation is hard to predict, but the secrets revealed by scientists so far have made the mystery of oceans even more appealing. Despite all the dangers posed by oceanic waters, we feel naturally drawn to explore them.

- 3> EXAM TASK Przeczytaj tekst. Uzupełnij zdania 1–5 zgodnie z treścią tekstu.

- 1 Artists, tourists, sailors and scientists have different reasons for _____.
- 2 Two subjects concerning oceans that are of scientific interests are _____.
- 3 How salty an ocean's water is depends on such factors as _____.
- 4 Looking at the waves, we assume they move horizontally, which _____.
- 5 The tides are formed as a result of gravitational interaction between the Earth and two _____.

- 4> Work in groups of 3. Imagine you are at a photographic exhibition at an art gallery and you are looking at the pictures capturing seas in different ways. Which of these pictures would you put on the wall of:
- a your bedroom? b your classroom? c a tourist information office? d a seaside café?

Discuss and explain your choices, using the vocabulary in the box.

rough (sea) choppy (sea) stormy (sea) smooth (sea) calm (sea)
white-topped (waves) tranquil (sea/beach/place) secluded (beach/place)
picturesque (scenery/view) breathtaking (scenery/view) dramatic (scenery/view)