

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Dividing Oceans

About 70% of the Earth is covered in ocean water. An ocean is defined as a large body of salt water. Although most people think of the ocean water as being several separate oceans, in actuality all of the ocean water on Earth is interconnected. This is often called the global ocean. The idea of naming and dividing the global ocean is merely a formality used to help people better organize and understand Earth's major bodies of water.

There are many ways to divide and demarcate the ocean water on Earth's surface. Oftentimes, scientists will refer to Earth's ocean water as one, three, four, five, or seven different oceans. The most common method for dividing and naming the global ocean acknowledges five major oceans: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Southern. This method observes the seven continents as the boundaries between the oceans.

Though the ocean water is linked together, the ocean regions are quite different from one another in temperature, composition, and aquatic life. Furthermore, each ocean area contains seas, gulfs, bays, and straits that also help differentiate the ocean water. Dividing and naming Earth's ocean water is helpful in studying ocean characteristics to better understand the Earth.



- 1) As used in paragraph 1, which is the best antonym for **interconnected**?
  - A. intertwined
  - B. separated
  - C. incorporated
  - D. colossal
  
- 2) According to the passage, all of the ocean water on Earth is often referred to as the
  - A. global ocean
  - B. world ocean
  - C. salt water ocean
  - D. separated ocean
  
- 3) In paragraph 1, the author writes, "The idea of naming and dividing the global ocean is merely a formality used to help people better organize and understand Earth's major bodies of water." This statement is intended to
  - A. give a demonstration
  - B. provide an example
  - C. discredit an argument
  - D. clarify a misconception

- 4)** This passage is mostly about
- A. what characterizes an ocean and differentiates it from other bodies of water
  - B. when it is appropriate to refer to the ocean as several oceans
  - C. why all ocean water is divided and therefore must be kept separate
  - D. how dividing the oceans can help humans understand the Earth
- 5)** According to the passage, the most common method for dividing and naming the global ocean is based on
- A. the equator
  - B. temperature and aquatic life
  - C. the seven continents
  - D. lines of longitude and latitude
- 6)** According to the passage, ocean regions differ from each other in
- I. temperature
  - II. composition
  - III. aquatic life
- A. I only
  - B. I and II only
  - C. II and III only
  - D. I, II, and III
- 7)** Using your own words, explain why the Earth's oceans are given different names despite the fact that they are all just one interconnected body of water.

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## Answers and Explanations

1) B

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

**interconnected** (*adjective*): connected with each other.

In the first paragraph, the author writes, “Although most people think of the ocean water as being several separate oceans, in actuality all of the ocean water on Earth is interconnected.” We can use context clues—hints from known words or phrases around the unknown word or phrase—to help us figure out what interconnected most nearly means. After doing so, we will be able to determine its antonym, or opposite. The word “although” in the quotation above lets us know that something will be stated in the first part of the sentence, and then proven false in the second part of the sentence. In the first part of the sentence, the author mentions that “most people think of the ocean water as being several separate oceans...” Next, the author writes, “in actuality all of the ocean water on Earth is interconnected.” From this, we can tell that interconnected must be the opposite of separate. This lets us know that interconnected must mean something like connected together. The opposite of this would be separated. Using this information, we can tell that the best antonym for interconnected is separated. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Using the above information, we can tell that interconnected means something like connected together. This means that its antonym must mean separated. Things that are intertwined are together, not separate. For instance, vines that are intertwined are hard to separate. This lets us know that intertwined is not the best antonym for interconnected, and **(A)** is incorrect.

Using the above information, we can tell that interconnected means something like connected together. This means that its antonym must mean separated. Things that are incorporated are put together. For instance, when you incorporate eggs into a batter, you mix the eggs in with the flour and sugar. This is the opposite of separating something, so we can tell that incorporated is not the best antonym for interconnected. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

Using the above information, we can tell that interconnected means something like connected together. This means that its antonym must mean something like separated. Colossal relates to size, not how together or separate something is. Since interconnected does not have anything to do with size, we can tell that colossal is not the best antonym for interconnected. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

2) A

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “...in actuality all of the ocean water on Earth is interconnected. This is often called the global ocean.” This lets us know that all of the ocean water on Earth is often referred to as the global ocean. This means **(A)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) D

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 1, the author writes, "The idea of naming and dividing the global ocean is merely a formality used to help people better organize and understand Earth's major bodies of water." Previously, the author writes, "Although most people think of the ocean water as being several separate oceans, in actuality all of the ocean water on Earth is interconnected. This is often called the global ocean." Since the author mentions that the oceans have been considered separately, but that in actuality they are all one ocean, we can tell that the sentence above clarifies the misconception that "most people think of the ocean water as being several separate oceans." This sentence clarifies why people separate the global ocean into smaller, more manageable bodies of water. Using this information, we can tell that the statement above is intended to clarify a misconception. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide evidence to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, or **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) D

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In the first paragraph, the author introduces the idea that all of the oceans are really one "global ocean," but that dividing and labeling the oceans into smaller bodies of water helps us to better organize and think about them. Paragraph 2 explains how the oceans can be "divide[d] and demarcate[d]." Paragraph 3 explains how the divided ocean regions are different, and reinforces the logic behind dividing up the "global ocean" into more manageable portions to help us better understand the Earth. This lets us know that this passage is mostly about how dividing the oceans can help humans understand the Earth. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

At the beginning of the passage, the author writes, "An ocean is defined as a large body of salt water." While this statement characterizes an ocean, it is only a definition that is introduced at the beginning of the passage to give us an understanding of what the author means when he or she uses the term ocean throughout the passage. This lets us know that this passage is not mostly about what characterizes an ocean and differentiates it from other bodies of water. This means **(A)** is incorrect.

The author never mentions when it is appropriate to refer to the ocean as several oceans. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

The author mentions that "all of the ocean water on Earth is interconnected." This means that the ocean water cannot be kept separate. Using this information, we can tell that this passage is not mostly about why all ocean water is divided and therefore must be kept separate. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

5) C

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In paragraph 2, the author writes, "The most common method for dividing and naming the global ocean acknowledges five major oceans: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Southern. This method observes the seven continents as the boundaries between the oceans." This lets us know that the seven continents are responsible for the way in which we divide and name the five major oceans. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) D

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In paragraph 3, the author writes, “Though the ocean water is linked together, the ocean regions are quite different from one another in temperature, composition, and aquatic life.” This lets us know that ocean regions differ from each other in temperature, which supports **option (I)**.

In paragraph 3, the author writes, “Though the ocean water is linked together, the ocean regions are quite different from one another in temperature, composition, and aquatic life.” This lets us know that ocean regions differ from each other in composition, which supports **option (II)**.

In paragraph 3, the author writes, “Though the ocean water is linked together, the ocean regions are quite different from one another in temperature, composition, and aquatic life.” This lets us know that ocean regions differ from each other in aquatic life, which supports **option (III)**.

Therefore **(D)** is correct.