

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 straights 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.
