

Our Five Oceans · Conversation & classroom guide

Learning with a grown-up · Ages 4–8 · Flexible participation

Why are there two Pacific Ocean labels?

Learning aim: Locate five named ocean regions and explain that their waters connect.

A five-minute conversation

Start with the blue water. Trace a route between two named oceans with your finger, staying over water. Then compare this poster with Our Seven Continents: one names water regions, the other large land regions.

Start here: Find land and water, then match two ocean names read aloud by an adult.

Explore further: Locate all five named regions and explain the repeated Pacific label.

Why are there two Pacific Ocean labels?

Answer cue: This flat map is cut through the Pacific. The left and right edges join on a globe, so both labels name the same ocean.

Which ocean is between Africa and Australia?

Answer cue: The Indian Ocean. Help your child find the land shapes first, using the continents poster if needed.

Are walls separating the five oceans?

Answer cue: No. Their waters connect. The names help us talk about different regions of one global ocean.

Keep the idea clear

Five ocean names are a widely used convention. The map edges and regional names are not physical barriers. A flat map changes shapes and sizes; use a globe if available, without needing to buy one.

Try: Follow the connected water

Materials: The poster and, optionally, the Seven Continents poster or a globe.

1. Find Antarctica at the bottom and the Southern Ocean around it.
2. Trace through water from the Southern Ocean into the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans.
3. Find the two Pacific labels. Imagine bringing the map's left and right edges together.

What this can show: The child identifies one named ocean and explains, in their own way, that the waters join. A finger trace or spoken route is enough. Do not cut or fold the poster; no water experiment or travel is required.

Return to it: Cover one ocean name. Can your child locate it by describing the land beside it?

Our Five Oceans · In the classroom

A 15-minute classroom lesson

Prepare: The poster and, optionally, the Seven Continents poster or a globe. Read the answer cues before sharing.

Words to explore

ocean — The vast connected body of salty water around Earth's land.

connected — Joined together.

region — A part of a larger area.

globe — A round model of Earth.

continent — One of Earth's large land regions.

3 min · Notice: Look together and invite one observation before introducing the vocabulary.

4 min · Compare: Use the three discussion prompts, following the picture rather than expecting memorized definitions.

5 min · Try together: Find Antarctica at the bottom and the Southern Ocean around it. Trace through water from the Southern Ocean into the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans. Find the two Pacific labels. Imagine bringing the map's left and right edges together.

3 min · Explain: The child identifies one named ocean and explains, in their own way, that the waters join.

Understanding check: The child identifies one named ocean and explains, in their own way, that the waters join.

Answer guidance: This flat map is cut through the Pacific. The left and right edges join on a globe, so both labels name the same ocean. The Indian Ocean. Help your child find the land shapes first, using the continents poster if needed. No. Their waters connect. The names help us talk about different regions of one global ocean.

Read names aloud and allow the child to point. Use enlarged sections while retaining a whole-map view; describe land shapes without relying on color alone.

A response to keep

Draw, point or describe one idea from this picture.

One clue I can explain now...

Something else I wonder...

<https://kiddos.ai/learn/olivia-the-globetrotter/five-oceans>

Related story: Olivia and Doudou in San Francisco — Olivia and Doudou's San Francisco book offers a story connection to the Pacific coast. Keep the book's actual setting distinct from this whole-world reference.

Our discovery record

Use words, marks, a drawing or an adult's notes. Keep this page with you; nothing needs to be uploaded.

Date / time (if useful): _____

My question or idea

What I noticed

What I think now

What I want to explore next

Stories to continue together: <https://kiddos.ai/books>

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