

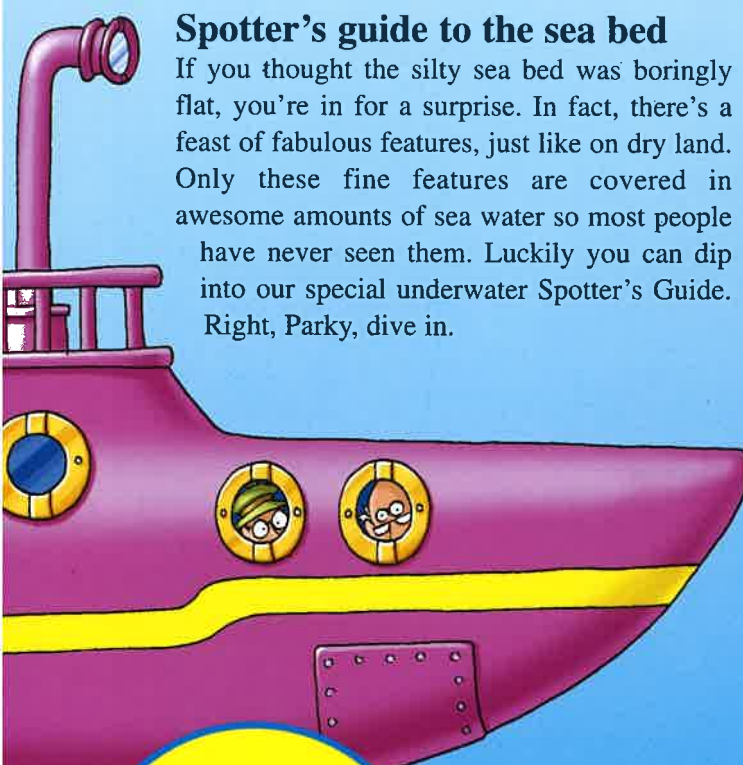


ODIOUS OCEANS

After all that wild and windy weather, how about a relaxing few days by the sea? Odious oceans cover two-thirds of the Earth so there's plenty of sea to, er, see. Hope you're ready to take the plunge. We're throwing you in at the deep end.

Spotter's guide to the sea bed

If you thought the silty sea bed was boringly flat, you're in for a surprise. In fact, there's a feast of fabulous features, just like on dry land. Only these fine features are covered in awesome amounts of sea water so most people have never seen them. Luckily you can dip into our special underwater Spotter's Guide. Right, Parky, dive in.



Continental shelf:

Where the land slopes gently out to sea around the edges of the continents. (And nothing like a shelf you put a book on.)

Continental slope:

The end of the sloping shelf, where the sea bed falls steeply away down into the dark, dingy depths.

Continental rise:

A thick layer of murky mud and sand. It's washed down the slippery slope and makes a huge bump at the bottom.

Abyssal plains:

Frightfully flat plains that stretch across half of the sea floor. They're covered in a creepy carpet of ooze, made from the bodies of billions of dead sea creatures.

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Sea-water recipe

Sea water's salty because – guess what – it's got salt in it. To make your own sea-water sample, try following this foul-tasting recipe.

You will need:

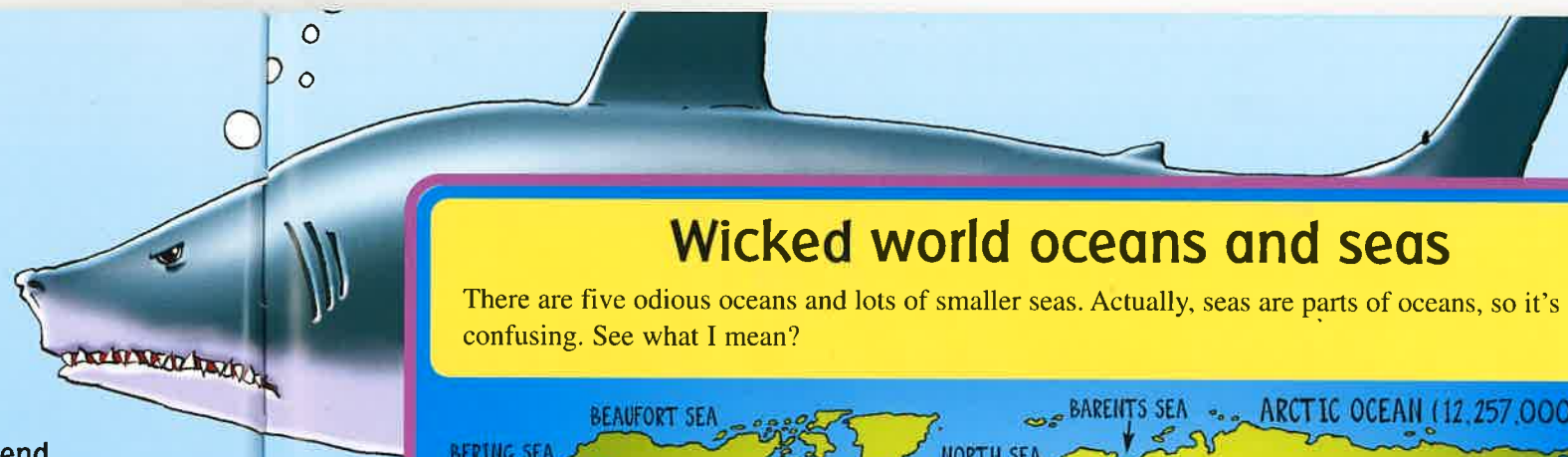
- 2 cupfuls of salt*
- A bucket of warm-ish water
- Large pinch of other chemicals (sulphate, magnesium, calcium and potassium, and so on)
- Small pinch of gold (salt water contains other metals, too, but gorgeous gold's the most valuable)
- A few fish (optional)

What to do:

- 1 Put the salt and other stuff in the water (except the gold and fish).
- 2 Stir until it dissolves.
- 3 Add the gold and the fish.

* **Note:** This salt's the same stuff you sprinkle on your food. But it doesn't come from a salt pot. Most of it comes from rocks on land, and rivers wash it into the sea.

SHARK
BITE



Wicked world oceans and seas

There are five odious oceans and lots of smaller seas. Actually, seas are parts of oceans, so it's all very confusing. See what I mean?



Seamount: A vast underwater volcano that towers a colossal kilometre or more from the sea bed. Thankfully, monster seamounts don't erupt any more.

TEACHER TEASER

See if your teacher's a salty old sea dog with this teaser. Which of these things have been found in a shark's stomach?

- a) A dog, b) A car number plate, c) A sack of nails.

Answer: a), b) and c)! They're all been scoffed by a tiger shark. No wonder this greedy gut's nickname is 'garbage-can shark'. Its diet is rubbish.

Guyot: Similar to a seamount but without a pointy peak. A groovy guyot looks as if its head has been chopped right off. (Actually, it's been worn down by the washing of the waves.)

Mid-ocean ridge:

Remember how the sea bed spreads? (See page 10 if you're not sure). This pushes up chunky chains of mountains and volcanoes down the middle of oceans.

Deep-sea trench:

A giant gash in the sea floor. It happens when one plate of seabed plunges under another (see page 14 for an in-depth look).

WICKED WORLD FACTS

Millions of years ago, the water in the first oceans was like boiling hot vinegar. Odious.

The tallest wave ever seen was a whopping 34 metres high. Talk about making a splash.

Take a deep breath – over half the oxygen we breathe comes from minuscule ocean plants.



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