Principle 1: Earth has one big ocean with many features.

The ocean, which covers 70% of Earth's surface, is the defining feature of the planet.

	Geologi	c Features — A		Properti	es of Ocean Wa	ter — B	Ocean Circulation — C										
The size and shape o time and continues t			gic		on Earth is ocean w lical and physical p		The ocean is one interconnected body of water that is integral to the water cycle; and is in constant motion in a global circulation system.										
	A 1		A7	B1	B3	·		C1	·	C6		C9					
Motion along the ma creates physical feat		During various times in Earth's geologic history, all of the continents have been joined into one supercontinent. A giant ocean circulated around the supercontinent.	Salts enter the ocean via erosion from land, volcanic emissions, reactions at the sea floor, and atmospheric deposition.	Density difference between masses o can cause current	f water		n circulation system is genera erent types of currents movin		Currents transport nutrients, and orga throughout the ocea	nisms	All major watersheds, from the Amazon River to melting glaciers, mix fresh and salt water when they meet the ocean, which contributes to the densit differences that set ocea currents in motion.						
	A2		A8	B2	B4		C2	C3	C4	C7 C8		C10	C11				
Many of the physical floor are the result o lithospheric plates th	f the constant	motion of the	The supercontinent broke apart along rift valleys to create new, smaller continents and ocean basins now known as the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, etc.	The freezing point of ocean water decreases as salinity increases; the pH of ocean water is more basic than fresh water.	The density of oce increases as salini of dissolved salts) and as temperatur	ity (amount increases	Deep ocean currents are driven by density differences between masses of ocean water.	The wind, combined with Earth's rotation (Coriolis effect), drives surface currents in circular gyres in each ocean basin; clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and counter-clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.	Tides are mainly caused by the gravitational interaction between Earth, the moon and the sun.	Upwelling, which occurs mostly on west coasts, brings nutrients from deep water to the sunlit surface zone where photosynthetic primary producers grow.	Currents are especially important in moving young organisms (larvae and juveniles) to populate new areas.	As water travels through the watersheds, it collects nutrients, salts, sediments and pollutants and carries them into the ocean.	Sea level rises as glaciers melt.				
A3	A4	A5	A9		B5	B6	C5	C5	C5								
New lithospheric crust is generated at spreading centers while older, denser crust is recycled into the Earth's interior at subduction zones, creating various physical features.	New lithospheric crust is generated at spreadingPlate movementFeatures on the ocean floor are highly varied, an include trenches, denser crust isdenser crust is denser crust isby therift valleys, mid- ocean ridges, eamounts, subduction zones, creating variousbelow creating variousislands, and continental		The continents are still in motion today.		The salinity of ocean water can change due to adding or removing water (e.g., evaporation, melting glaciers, or inflow from rivers, streams, and rainfall).	The temperature of ocean water can change due to warming and cooling (e.g., heat from the sun or contact with ice).	Ocean circulation is influenced by the position of basins, continents, and other geologic features.	Ocean circulation is influenced by the position of basins, continents, and other geologic features.	Ocean circulation is influenced by the position of basins, continents, and other geologic features.								

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Principle 2: The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth.

				Geolog	ic Change — A							Roc	ck Cycle — E	3	
Many changes	in geologic featu	ures occur where	e the ocean mee	ts the land.							Many of the rocks	exposed on land v	vere formed in t	he ocean.	
				A1				A	13	Plate Tectonics — A19	B1	B2		B3	
Many landforr	ms are the resul	t of a combinatio	on of constructiv	ve and destructive fo	orces where the ocea:	n meets the land.		The surface of the shaped by sea leve		Tectonic activity between oceanic and continental plates can result in volcanoes, earthquakes, and mountain forma- tion near the coast.	Some igneous rocks are formed in the ocean in volcanoes, at hot spots, and at mid-ocean ridges.	Some metamorphic rocks are formed in the ocean (e.g., at subduction zones).	Many sedimen the ocean fror		
		A2				A8		A	14					B4	
		wn of rocks, soils 1d biological proc			Erosion and deposition of the particles by the particles by the or living organism of the particles are set of the particles	wind, rain, wave	s, ice, gravity,	Sea level is affected in climate and tect					Many marine and silicate sk contribute to t rocks, reefs, a	eletal structur he formation o	es, which of sedimentary
A	\3	A	6	A7	A9	A	10	A15	A18	A18			В	B 9	
Biological weat caused by livin (e.g., when sea grind holes in r	ig organisms urchins	Chemical weath down and alter composition of minerals throu oxidation, and	rs the chemical rocks and igh hydrolysis,	Physical weathering of rocks can be caused by freeze- thaw cycles, salt crystallization, hydraulic action, pressure release, wind abrasion, and/or thermal expansion.	Powerful storms can cause drastic short- and long- term changes to coastlines.	Beach profiles of seasonally due wave action an	to different	Variations in global climate affect the volume of water in the ocean by changing the size of polar ice caps and glaciers, resulting in relative sea- level changes.	Tectonic activity causes uplift and subduction, which results in relative sea level changes.	Tectonic activity causes uplift and subduction, which results in relative sea level changes.			Some organisms, such as cyanobacteria, coralline algae, and corals construct complex structures (e.g., stromatolites and reefs).		The skeletal structures formed by so organisms (e. mollusk shell foraminifera cocoliths, radiolaria, ar diatom cell walls) sink an are deposited on the ocean floor, eventua forming sedimentary rocks.
A4	A5	A4	A5	A5		A11	A12	A16	A16	A16			B6	B 8	
can release organic	rock become sites where further weathering	Organisms can release organic acids that can increase chemical weathering.	Cracks in rock become sites where further weathering is more likely to occur.	Cracks in rock become sites where further weathering is more likely to occur.		Powerful winter wave action removes sediment from shorelines. Gentle summer wave action re- builds beaches.	replace sand removed by waves and currents.	Changes in sea level can create, destroy, expose, and cover landforms, such as continental shelves, islands, marine terraces, beaches, and inland seas.	Changes in sea level can create, destroy, expose, and cover landforms, such as continental shelves, islands, marine terraces, beaches, and inland seas.	Changes in sea level can create, destroy, expose, and cover landforms, such as continental shelves, islands, marine terraces, beaches, and inland seas.			Lime-secret- ing cyano- bacteria trap sediments and form large mounds called stromatolites.	Coral reefs are produced by living organisms that secrete an exoskeleton of calcium carbonate.	
								A17	A17	A17			B7		-
								Fossilized marine organisms, ancient coral reefs, and beaches can be found on land, far from current coastlines.	Fossilized marine organisms, ancient coral reefs, and beaches can be found on land, far from current coastlines.	Fossilized marine organisms, ancient coral reefs, and beaches can be found on land, far from current coastlines.			Stromatolites are a major component of the fossil record for the first 3.5 billion years of life on Earth.		

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Principle 3: The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.

The interaction of oceanic and atmospheric processes controls weather and climate by dominating Earth's energy system.

			Weather and Climat	te — A			Glob	oal Climate Change	е — В				
The ocean mo	oderates global weather a	nd climate by absorb	ing most of the solar rad			Changes in the ocean/atmosphere system can result in changes to the climate.							
		A1			Α	10	B1						
	ge between the ocean and and oceanic and atmosph		es the		Short-term and sease in ocean temperatur rainfall and tempera weather). Long-term temperature can aff	re can affect atures on land (i.e., changes in ocean	The global climate is i dioxide in the atmosp in the atmosphere, th	here. The more carbo	n dioxide				
	Water Cycle — A	2	A7	A8	A11	A12	В	2	B5				
The ocean dominates the water cycle.			The heat transferred from the tropical ocean provides the energy that drives atmospheric circulation and weather, including hurricanes, cyclones, and polar storms.	Increases in sea surface temperature increases atmospheric convection, changing patterns of rainfall and drought. The most important of these changes is called El Niño.	Land and ocean weather maps are used to display and identify weather patterns and to help predict future patterns	Longterm weather and oceanographic data sets contribute to climate predictions.	The ocean absorbs ab carbon dioxide added	There have been large abrupt changes in Earth's climate over geologic time.					
A3	A4	A6		A9			B3	B4	B6				
Ocean currents move heat throughout the ocean basins.	The ocean loses heat through evaporation. The lost heat is released back to the atmosphere when the evaporated water vapor condenses and forms rain. The released heat drives atmospheric circulation. A5 Most rain that falls on land evaporated from the tropical ocean.	The weather along coastlines is generally more moderate than inland regions because the ocean absorbs and retains heat more effectively than the land.		El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is important because it changes where the rain falls in the tropics, which changes atmospheric circulation.			Some of the carbon dioxide absorbed by the ocean is used by phytoplankton and other photosynthetic organisms in the process of photosynthesis. About half of the world's photosynthesis (primary production) occurs in the sunlit layers of the ocean.	Absorbing carbon dioxide can decrease the ocean's pH, making the water more acidic. This can have consequences for many organisms in the ocean.	Humans are changing the climate by continuing to release large amounts of carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere.				



Principle 4: The ocean makes Earth habitable.

Ocean Produc	tion — A	Origins of Life — B									
Originally, all oxygen in the atmos from photosynthetic organisms in		Life started in the ocean, and the earliest evidence of life is found in ancient ocean sediments.									
A1	A5	B1									
Earth originally had an atmosphere containing gases toxic to most organisms; there was no life on land until oxygen became common in the atmosphere.	Most of the oxygen consumed by organisms living on land and in the water is produced by photosynthetic organisms in the ocean.	The fossil record of ancient lifeforms provides evidence for the theory of evolution and the important role that the ocean played in the evolution of life on Earth.									
A2	A6	B2	B4								
Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) living in the ocean generated oxygen in Earth's atmosphere through the process of photosynthesis, over many millions of years.	The process of photosynthesis produces oxygen gas, while respiration and decay use oxygen.	Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), the ancestors of all plants and algae, are among the oldest fossils currently known on Earth. These 3 billion-year- old organisms evolved in the ocean, and are found in ancient ocean sediments.	The millions of different species of organisms on Earth today are related by descent from common ancestors that evolved in the ocean and continue to evolve today.								
A3		B3									
The oxygen produced by cyanobacteria through photosynthesis first accumulated in the ocean, and then escaped into the atmosphere, where it formed ozone that blocked much UV radiation from reaching Earth's surface.		The chloroplast, which plants use to make food for themselves through photosynthesis, is a remnant of cyanobacteria.									
A4											
By 550 million years ago, oxygen and ozone levels in the atmosphere were high enough that terrestrial organisms											

could develop and survive.

Principle 5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

The ocean provides a vast living space and unique ecosystems, from the surface, through the water column, to the sea floor.

					ty of Ecosys	item — A							ity of Life –			
Ocean ecosystems vary w	videly, based on the	e variety of environmental factors and	l the community o	of organisms livi	ng there.				The diversity of	f ocean ecosyst	ems allows for ma	ny unique lifefo	rms with many	unique adaptatio	ns.	
		Primary Productivity —	A1			A14	A	20	B 1	B 3				B5		
Ocean systems with the gr conditions and/or adaptat	reatest abundance ions allow for high	of life occur where environmental levels of productivity.	Differences in light, temperature, pressure, density, and chemical makeup of this fluid environment lead to distinct vertically and horizontally distributed ecosystems	Ocean ecosys connected to via a series of	each other	The diversity of phyla is greater in the ocean than on land.	The ocean supports a range of animals from the smallest living thing to the largest animal on Earth.	Organisms in the pressure, patchy			s to sound, density, ors.					
A2	A5	A7	A10	A12	A13	A15	A21	A22	B2	B4	B6	B7	B 8	B 9	B10	B11
Most primary productivity in the ocean takes place at the surface where there is plentiful sunlight for photosynthesis and nutrients for growth.	Some ecosystems function independent of light energy.	There are six places in the ocean, all on west coasts, with the right environmental conditions to create the most productive areas. These are the coastal upwelling zones.	Coral reefs oc- cur where the water is warm and there are not many nutrients in the water, and yet they are very productive ecosystems.	Environmen- tal conditions in estuaries (e.g., shallow, brackish water) and in mangroves (lots of decay- ing organisms) result in high- ly productive nursery areas for a great many ocean organisms.	At the poles, nutrients flowing into the ocean from melt- ing glaciers, combined with long, sunny days in the summer, result in pro- ductivity, and abundance unequaled anywhere else in the world.	Ecosystems exist in layers of habitats and microhabitats due to gradients in specific environmental factors, such as temperature, salinity, and oxygen within the water column.	of phyla and	ecosystem or an organism in the community	groups (phyla and classes) of organisms, such as echinoderms, cephalopods, comb jellies, and many types of	Most of the biomass in the ocean is made up of microscopic microbes.	Different ocean organisms have different life history strategies. Some drift with the currents (plankton), some swim (nekton), and some live on the bottom (benthos).	"In the tropical ocean where there are fewer nutrients, diversity of life is higher and abundance of life is lower. In the polar regions where there are comparatively more nutrients, there is less diversity of life and more abundance of life.	toplankton have adap- tations (e.g., oil droplets, spines, and a large surface area), which allow them to stay near	to whales, rely on sound to communi- cate, find prey and mates, and sense their envi- ronments. Sound travels through the	Some ocean organisms have adaptations for living in or diving to the deep ocean. For example, elephant seals spend most of their life diving in the deep ocean to depths at which most mammals could not survive. Other organisms have bioluminescent lures to capture prey, or huge mouths and stomachs to take advantage of the scarce prey in the deep	Organisms in the ocean exhibit an amazing variety of life cycles. Som have planktonic stages that help colonize new are some undergo lou seasonal migra- tions to mate and have young, and others change se as they mature or as the domi- nance hierarchy in the commu- nity changes.
A3	A6	A8 A9	A11		1	A16		1	1	1	1					B12
Microbes (photosynthetic algae and bacteria) are important primary producers and support a huge abundance of life.		Coastal upwellingKelp forests and other coastal oceanoccurs when wind and the Coriolisecosystems in upwelling zones have abundanteffect push surface watersunlight, cold water, and	A symbiotic relationship between corals and the algae living inside them allows the corals to thrive, even though the environmental conditions do not seem conducive to supporting life.			Ocean organisms are adapted to live in a relatively stable ocean. They are often adapted to tolerate very specific environmental conditions. For example, corals can only live within specific temperature ranges, and some larval fish can only live in very narrow layers of water with particular salinity and temperature.										Some of these life cycles are unique to ocean organisms, such as those of seahorses, corals, many fish, and kelp.
A4 Microbes are the basis of most energy in food webs in the ocean. They are the primary food source for grazers, such as zooplank- ton and clams. Grazers are in turn the primary food for bigger organisms, such as fish and baleen whales.	e 1					A17A18A19Adaptations to specific environmental conditions can result in vertical and hori- zontal zonation patterns. For example, in intertidal areas, organisms are adapted to crashing waves and the cycle of the tides, while in the open ocean, many organisms are adapted to a specific temperature and salinity level. Different organisms are found in different density layers.Humans have changed environmental conditions in the ocean, which has had a generally negative major impacts on many different ocean organisms.Changes to the climate will cause further changes to environmental conditions.										

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								Principle 6: The ocean ar	nd humans are	nextricably inter	rconnected.										
Ocean Affects Weather and Climate — A	Uses of the Ocean — B Ocean Affects Where People I						– C		Human Impac	on the Ocean and	d Atmosphere — D			Responsibility and Advocacy for the Ocean — E							
The ocean absorbs and releases heat from the sun, as well as distributes heat around the globe, thus moderating the temperature on Earth so life, including human life, can exist.	The ocean is essential to the	existence of human life or	a Earth.	The ocean influences the population and population distribution of humans. Human activity contributes to changes in the ocean and atmosphe					mosphere.					Individual and collective actions are necessary for maintaining, conserving, and sustaining a healthy ocean.							
A1 A2	B1 B3	B5	B 8	C1	C2	C3 C4	C5	D1	D8	D10	D13		D18	E1			E 6				
into the atmosphere, resulting in a relatively narrow temperature	Humans obtain food from the ocean through fisheries and aquaculture.	Photosynthetic organisms in the ocean produce most of the oxygen consumed by humans.	Humans use resources from the ocean.	The vastness of the ocean has resulted in the isolation of civilizations; however, people have also used it to travel large distances and settle around the world.	historically used, and continue to use the ocean for transportation, commerce, exploration, recreation, and inspiration.	population many	es typhoons, and tsunamis may adversely affect humans living along	Fishing and aquaculture affect the ocean.	introduction to	uman-made modifications the landscape fect the ocean.	s Human activity can lead excess input of greenhou into the atmosphere whi alter the temperature of atmosphere and affect th	ise gases ich can 'Earth's	ects life in the ocean.	Scientists are still learning about marine organisms and ocean ecosystems. New information is useful for helping guide policy decisions and individual actions.	It is important f	for the public to learn abou	it issues regarding the ocean,	, and to take action			
	B2 B4	B6 B7	B9 B10 B11	1	·	· · ·	C6	D2 D5	D9	D11 D12	D14	D16 D19	D21 D22	E2			E7		E13 E14	4 E15	
	Some food Most of from the Earth's ocean is fresh water consumed is water directly by that has humans, evaporated while others from the are used ocean and as pet food, has returned food addi- tives, animal feed, and fertilizer.	organisms include cy- anobacteria, algae, and seagrass. tosynthesi produces oxygen gas, while respiration and decay	HumansHumansHu-o-use bioticobtainmansisresourcesenergyextractfrom thefrom thefrom thesaltoceanoceanoceanfrometo makevia wind,theonproducts,wave,oceanzsuch asoil, andandgas.consumergoods.in thein the	ct			Learning about and preparing for natural hazards can increase survival and minimize the adverse effects of these events.	Aquaculture and fisheries can be positive ways to supply growing demands for seafood, if done responsibly. Aquaculture and fisheries can be destructive to ecosystems, if done improperly.	cies can disrupt st native food la webs, introduce th novel diseases, m and out-compete su native species in for resourc- cr es, leading to lu	gerosion, eating pol- ted runoff, altering e flow of altor the shape of nearby coastlines and disrupt	t input of green greenhouse gases gase traps increased lead amounts of solar incr heat, which upta can raise the of ca temperature diox of the ocean. the whi	es can land into the ocean as wate flows throug ake watersheds arbon via runoff kide by and rivers.	er onto land and fishing nets,	There are national and internation efforts that inform and regulate fis practices and land development, ar establish Marine Protected Areas.	hing	nake informed decisions th	nat reduce human impact on t	ca in ch wl pu wl ne su su wa en	oices about their hat they knowl rchase and edge t	can advocate through their actions and vl- by sharing to information on about the er wise use and es protection of af- the ocean.	
A Handbook for Increasing Ocean Literacy	,							D3D4D6D7Aquacul- ture can reduceResponsible fishery practicesAquaculture practices can release extra pollutants or non-native organismsMany large-scal fishing practice can disrupt ecosystems, tak more fish than can be replaced naturally and catch unintended organisms tions.	e I		Changes in ocean temperature can influence marine organisms by altering physical	of ocean organisms er can may ingest or olve absorb harm- shells, ful toxicants, s, and be impacted h letons water turbidi nany and get caugh rine in and ingest	sorb harmful toxicants, be impacted by ty, water turbidity, and get caught	tices maintain ed Areas and deve fish popula- tions, reduce that tices hel y bycatch, protect maintain t against habi- tat destruction, isms and vironme	ible Overfishing and habitat elop- destruction ac- can be reduced p to by only buying and eating grity seafood caught l en- through nuts. sustainable	Non-native species Peo- can be reduced with sup actions, such as not regu- releasing unwanted con- water, plants, or to m animals collected its i	port the can be reduced ulation of with actions, struction such as using en- ninimize ergy efficient ap- mpact pliances, turning coastal off lights, walk- itats. ing, bicycling, or using public	such as recy- cling, using biodegrade- able prod-	oceanliteracyN	NMEA.org	

Principle 7: The ocean is largely unexplored.

Exploration leads to	Peop a better understand:	ole Explore the	e Ocean — A			Ocean explora	tion and the analys	ation Requires	and sharing	Tech The ocean has phy	tion Requ novations such as depth	, pressure, light,		
						of information	on many different	levels: local, regiona	temperature, and than 20% of the oc					
		A1					B1		B5	B6				
There are many opp	portunities for ocean	exploration, which c	an lead to scientific	investigations.		organizations technology, en people who can may be located	tion requires peopl in different discipli gineering, mathem rry traditional know l in different parts o and share informat	nes of science, atics, and wledge, who of the world,	Local, regional, and national governments play large roles in ocean exploration through regulation and funding.	There are many environmental and community groups that play a role in raising awareness about the importance of ocean exploration.	Exploration of the that can collect da that are vast, have temperatures, and	s treme		
A2	A5	A6	A7	A	8	B2	B3	B4	B4	B4	C2	C3	C4	C5
Ocean explorers are discovering geographic areas, both on the surface and under water, as well as new physical, biological, and geochemical features of the ocean.	help us better understand changes over time in the climate, the acidification of	New methods and technologies are being developed to utilize the ocean for mineral and biological resources, and as a source of energy (e.g., tidal power, wave power, and ocean thermal energy conversion).	New habitats and species continue to be discovered throughout the ocean.	The current exp ocean organism to new discover human health a our interconnec to the ocean.	is is leading ies for ind about	The commu- nication of accurate and timely infor- mation about new discov- eries allows the public to make informed decisions that promote sustainability of the ocean.	People build their knowledge and skills in different disciplines, as their careers and/or hobbies. These careers can be in science, engineering, film, photography, architecture, fishing, and boating.	Young people can influence and even participate in ocean explora- tion by working with scientists and environmen- tal and communi- ty groups, by join- ing online virtual expeditions, and through commu- nication with gov- ernment officials.		ty groups, by join- ing online virtual expeditions, and through commu- nication with gov-	greater depths (e.g., wetsuits, SCUBA gear, and	Submersibles, Remotely Op- erated Vehicles (ROVs) and Autonomously Operated Ve- hicles (AUVs), are tools used for prolonged exploration of the ocean.	Acoustic technology, such as sonar, can be used to measure across large dis- tances and to locate unique underwa- ter features.	Ocean-observing systems use tools such as satellites, sensors, Geographic Information System (GIS), buoys, and acoustic equipment to study large areas of the ocean.
A3	A3	A3	A3	A9	A10			•		•	-			C6
Data gathered from advanced technology enables scientists to make better estimations and predictions of physical and biological phenomena.	enables scientists to make better estimations and predictions of physical and biological		Data gathered from advanced technology enables scientists to make better estimations and predictions of physical and biological phenomena.	There are many ways that humans benefit from discoveries about the ocean (e.g., can- cer research, new medicines, energy).	are not fully									The data from these systems can be accessed over the Internet, which allows for remote, real-time exploration of the ocean.
A4	A4	A4	A4											
Looking at data over time allows us to better understand the complexity of and changing patterns in the ocean (e.g., noise pollution, weather, sea surface temperatures, and dead zones).	lows us to better understand the complexity of and changing patterns in the ocean (e.g., noise pollution, weather, sea sur- face temperatures,	Looking at data over time allows us to better understand the complexity of and changing patterns in the ocean (e.g., noise pollution, weather, sea sur- face temperatures, and dead zones).	changing patterns in the ocean (e.g., noise pollution, weather, sea sur-											

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