

OCEANS AND PLASTICS QUIZ ANSWERS



- 1** Oceans cover about 70 per cent of our planet's surface.
TRUE: *Oceans cover 71 per cent of our planet's surface and make up 95 per cent of all the space available to life.*
- 2** In the UK, we eat £2.5 billion worth of seafood each year.
FALSE: *In the UK, we actually eat a staggering £4.5 billion worth of seafood each year, with the most common fish eaten in the UK being salmon, tuna and cod.*
- 3** Only 30 per cent of the ocean is protected.
FALSE: *Only 4 per cent of the ocean is under some form of protection. We need to do far more to protect our oceans and the plant and animal species that live there, as well as provide a healthier future for us too!*
- 4** Around half of the oxygen that we breathe comes from the ocean.
TRUE: *Tiny marine organisms, called phytoplankton produce around 50 per cent of the oxygen that we breathe.*
- 5** It can take fishing lines 300 years to degrade in the ocean.
FALSE: *According to some sources, sadly, it can take twice as long as this – 600 years. Around 10 per cent of all rubbish in the sea comes from the fishing industry. Nets and fishing gear can get lost or thrown away and these 'ghost nets' can keep trapping fish, seals, turtles and other sea life for years.*

- 6** By 2050, oceans could contain more plastic than fish.
TRUE: *We are producing around 20 times more plastic than we did 50 years ago and this is expected to double again in the next 20 years. Much of this ends up in the sea.*
- 7** About 45 per cent of plastic waste is properly recycled.
FALSE: *In fact, just 9 per cent of all plastics are recycled. Around 40 per cent of our plastic ends up in landfill and a third finds its way into fragile ecosystems such as the world's oceans.*
- 8** On average there are 358 items of litter per square kilometre on Britain's sea floor.
TRUE: *The amount of litter on Britain's sea floor has increased by over 200% since 1992 and nearly 80% of this is plastic.*
- 9** Over 80 per cent of pollution in the sea comes from activities that have taken place on land.
TRUE: *Most of our waste eventually reaches the sea. If they are not thrown away carefully, plastics can enter drains and rivers. Fertilisers and pesticides from farms and gardens can run to the sea and in many parts of the world, untreated sewage is pumped into the ocean.*
- 10** Microplastics are found in over 75% of mussels taken from British beaches.
TRUE: *According to research, microplastics are found in up to 80% of mussels taken from British beaches! Every day millions of microplastics enter the sea from products such as toothpaste and scrubs, so we need to reduce the amount of plastic entering the oceans.*