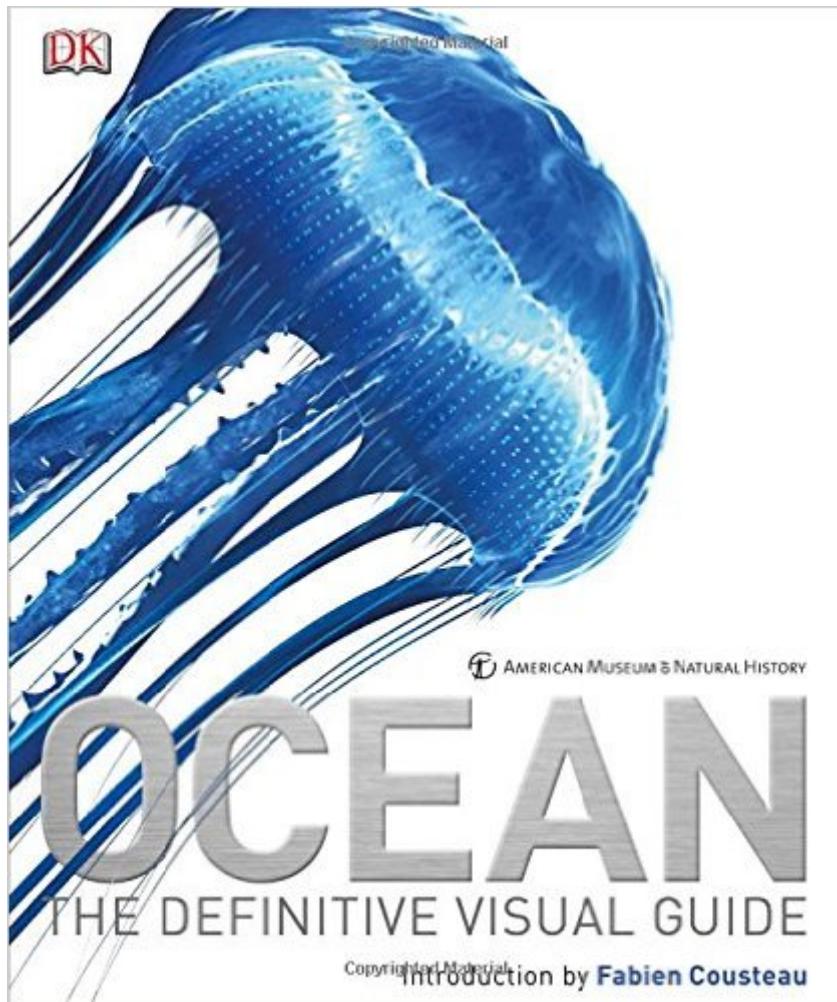


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# Ocean



## Synopsis

The power and wonder of the ocean is as strong today as ever, with new expeditions to its depths, and new discoveries beneath melting ice, in developing reefs, and on shores around the world. To celebrate, we are releasing a second edition of Ocean, with the latest scientific research, coverage of major events like Superstorm Sandy and the Fukushima tsunami, and new graphics and images. Ocean includes an atlas of the world's oceans and seas compiled using satellite data, brand-new 3-D Earth modeling, and remarkable photography of the marine world that explores the interaction between people and the ocean environment. From the geological and physical processes that affect the ocean floor to the key habitat zones, flora, and fauna, this is the definitive reference to the world's oceans.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 2 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

"Huge" means coffee table size, and roughly 500 pages. That's almost six pounds of enjoyable reading - if you decide to read it, rather than just letting the magnificent imagery wash over you. That's how the book starts, by the way. Page after page of full-page, full-color photos, including some two-page spreads, before you even get to the introduction. It gets off to a slightly slow start, with a quick review of just what seawater is, chemically, and why that matters. Geology and meteorology come next, the rocky basin that holds the sea and the air above it. In both cases, land and sky, the ocean shapes them as much as they shape the ocean. This discussion includes things

as important as El Niño and hurricane Katrina. Although wide-ranging and informative, vivid illustrations and photos keep it lively and personal. The first 200 pages or so continue the discussion of the polar icecaps, shores, underwater geography, and the rest of the ocean itself. Then the discussion turns to oceanic life. Historical life start it off, from the age of dinosaurs. The authors then move into the plankton, clearly distinguishing the bacteria from archaea, and both from the eukaryotic protists and diatoms. Next comes plant life in and near the ocean, including aquatic algae and shoreline plants, lichens, and fungi. These sections set the pattern, clearly identifying several levels of taxa to which specimen belongs, its worldwide distribution, gorgeous pictures, and a paragraph or two. Discussion varies, sometimes highlighting distinctive parts of an organism's life cycle, special relationships, or the scientists who've done most to uncover and spread this wonderful knowledge. It's the section on animals that young readers will be most drawn to.

This book is not a typical "coffee table" book. Although full of beautiful photographs, there is equal emphasis on educational text. Instead of being a book containing only full-page photos of ocean life, each page is a collage of wonderful photos and short articles that you will want to read. The publisher of this book (DK), offers a variety of books in this format (travel, etc), and the layout of this book is similar. That is not to knock the photos at all - they are great and some are full-page, but this book isn't page after page of full-page photos as some others are. That said, this is an excellent educational text with so much interesting information to offer. (It made me want to read the book cover-to-cover, which would probably keep me busy for at least a few days!) The four main sections of the book include: Introduction, Ocean Environments, Ocean Life, and Atlas of the Oceans. The Introduction section takes a scientific look at the earth. A sampling of the topics of this section include "The Evolution of the Oceans", "Tectonics and the Ocean Floor", "Hurricanes", and "El Niño and La Niña". Mixed in with the photos are a number of color drawings and graphs to help the reader understand the concepts. The section on Ocean Environments includes articles on specific places like San Francisco Bay and Hardanger Fjord as well as general information on habitats such as Salt Marshes, Mangrove Swamps and Rocky Sea Beds. The pages are full of photos of the areas as well as typical species found there. The largest section is on Ocean Life and focuses on the variety of creatures found in the sea.

Along with the absolutely wonderful, enrapturing photographs this book contains (the only thing better would be to really be there), it is informative, well-structured, and generally appealing. I have yet to find any inconsistency in its information, and it offers an education in Oceanography in a very

well-written way. The book starts off with several gorgeous, full-page photographs (including but not limited to, a picture of a Polar Bear cub underwater, a close up of a ray, and haunting pictures of the more hostile coastlines in the world). It then goes on to cover, by sections, the Introduction (which covers 'Ocean Water', 'Ocean Geology', and 'Circulation and Climate'...basically, these explain what makes up the ocean and why it does what it does) Ocean Environments (including subsections on 'Coasts and the Shoreline', 'Shallow Seas', 'The Open Seas and Ocean Floor', and 'Polar Ocean'), Ocean Life (with information on everything from the blue whale, to fish, to plankton, to different types of worms, birds and plants that thrive near or in the ocean) Atlas of the Oceans (including maps of the world's five major oceans and more detailed maps of individual regions within those oceans) I loved this book! I would highly suggest it for anyone interested in learning more about this yet-untamed (but sadly not unmarked) wilderness. I keep seeing references to children in the other reviews, and while most children would love the pictures, and some older children would be fascinated by the information, the writing is in no way 'dumbed down' and I would recommend it for any adult seeking a book on this subject. I would like to point out a couple of things, though.

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