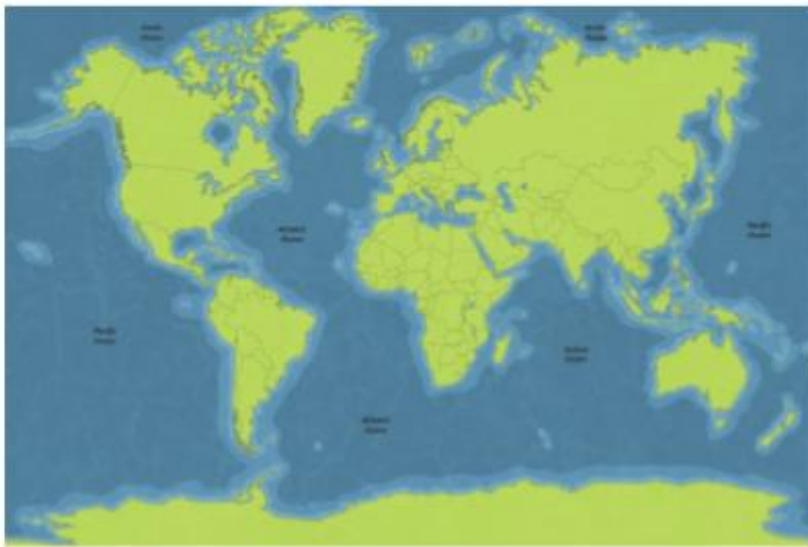


# World Oceans Day

## Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean

### What is World Oceans Day?

World Oceans Day is an event held every year on 8<sup>th</sup> June and it encourages people around the world to think about our oceans and how important they are. It also gets people to think about what can be done to help protect our oceans as well as to celebrate them.



### Our Oceans

The names of the world's five major oceans are:

- Atlantic Ocean
- Southern Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Arctic Ocean
- Indian Ocean

### Threats to Our Oceans

#### Plastic Pollution

Every year, up to 12.7 million tonnes of plastic enter our world's oceans. It escapes from landfill sites, floats down our drains, ends up in rivers and makes its way into our oceans.



The plastic causes harm to many of the creatures living there and lasts for 100s of years, meaning the danger stays around for that long too.



## Did You Know...?

Over 70% of our planet is ocean, which is home to 300,000 known species and about one million unknown species of plants and animals.

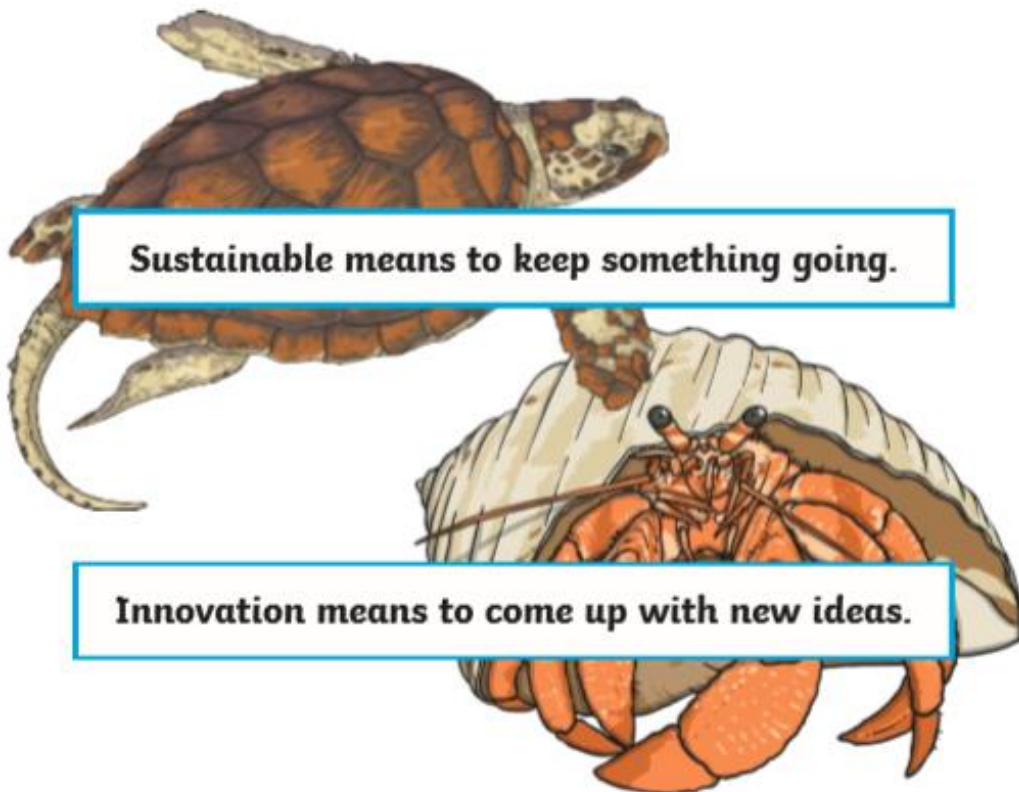
## Climate Changes

As global temperatures rise due to global warming so do the temperatures of our oceans.

Increasing ocean temperatures threaten and harm marine life, such as coral, by slowing down its growth and making it more prone to disease. As a result, large areas of coral reefs are dying, destroying the habitats of the aquatic life that lives there.

## World Oceans Day Theme

The theme for World Oceans Day 2020 is 'Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean'.



**Sustainable means to keep something going.**

**Innovation means to come up with new ideas.**



The focus is on researching new ways to help protect our oceans.

Scientists and environmentalists are looking into how we can reuse plastic. For example, in some places, plastic is being used to make new roads!

They are also finding out about new methods in which we can clear plastic from our oceans.

Another way is researching how to halt global warming to help slow down the melting of ice caps. For example, using electric cars will mean less harmful gases being released into the air by cars that use petrol.

### What Can We Do?

There are many things we can do to help our oceans, such as decreasing our use of plastic and going on organised beach cleans (if you live near the beach). We can also try to reduce our **carbon footprint** to help minimise global warming and learn more about charities that look after our amazing oceans.

#### **Carbon footprint -**

The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere because of the activities of an individual or organisation.

