

## Reflect

Emmy spent all day playing in the ocean. Heat from the Sun beat down on her. After a while, she noticed she was thirsty. She tried a sip of the ocean water. Yuk! It tasted terrible.

Emmy was surrounded by water. But she had to go somewhere else to find a drink. Why?



**Some water is salt water.** Earth's oceans are filled with salt water. So are the seas. Salt water has lots more salt than fresh water, which is why we can taste it.

Our bodies cannot handle that much salt. People cannot drink salt water at all. In fact, it will make us sick. That is why Emmy had to find a drink of fresh water instead of ocean water!

About three-fourths of Earth is covered in water. Almost all of this water is salt water. Remember that Earth's oceans and seas contain salt water. Some marshes also contain salt water. A marsh is an area along a coast filled with water and tall grasses.



About 97% of Earth's water is salt water. Most of this water is found in the oceans.



Many birds in salt marshes can drink salt water! When the birds drink the water, special glands remove the extra salt.

## What Do You Think?

**Some water is fresh water.** Water that is not salt water is called fresh water. People and many animals cannot drink salt water. They must drink fresh water. Only 3% of all water on Earth is fresh water.

Most of Earth is covered in water. That is why our planet looks mostly blue. The blue areas are the big oceans!



**We can drink only about 1% of the water on Earth.** Where does this water come from? We cannot get it out of the ocean. Ocean water is too salty. We cannot get it from giant ice sheets, or glaciers. The water in glaciers is frozen.

Where can we find water that is both fresh and liquid? Here are some places. Write something you already know about these sources of fresh water:



Glaciers are huge sheets of ice.

Streams:

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Rivers:

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Lakes:

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## Reflect

Let's learn more about these sources.



Streams are small bodies of water. They flow into rivers.



Rivers are wider and longer than streams. Many rivers flow from lakes to oceans.



Most lakes are completely surrounded by land. Some lakes connect to rivers.

## Fresh water comes from other sources.

Rain water is fresh water. Fresh water also comes from underground lakes and streams. People can bring it up to the surface. They drill down into the ground. Then they build a well to bring up the water.

Rain provides fresh water. It runs off Earth's surface and fills rivers, streams, and lakes.



## Look Out!

Not all lakes contain fresh water, though. Some lakes are full of salt water. China has many salt-water lakes. The United States has one of the most famous ones. Salt Lake City in Utah is named for the nearby Great Salt Lake. The lake is saltier than Earth's oceans!

Salt collects on the shores of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. The lake gets very little rain. No rivers flow into it. Why would this make it salty?





## Try Now

### What Do You Know?

Look at the following photographs. Decide whether they show fresh water or salt water. Circle your answers.



Fresh water      Salt water



Fresh water      Salt water



Fresh water      Salt water

## Reflect

### Career Corner: Oceanographer

Scientists who study Earth's oceans are called oceanographers. There are different kinds of oceanographers. They study different parts of the oceans.

Marine biologists are oceanographers. They study plants and animals that live in oceans. Oceanographers can also study **climate**.



**climate:** the weather in a place over many years

If Earth's climate becomes warmer, oceans will become warmer. This affects the plants and animals that live in and next to the oceans. Oceanographers may also study ocean waves. This is important because large waves can damage buildings and hurt people if they reach shore. Knowing how waves move can help save lives.

### Water Body Postcards

This project can help your child to better appreciate local water bodies. First, visit one or more lakes, streams, oceans, or other water bodies near where you live. (You may also visit manmade water bodies such as reservoirs, though be sure to explain to your child that people created these particular water bodies to meet their need for fresh water or their desire for recreation.) If you do not live close enough to a water body to easily visit it, conduct online research on a nearby water body. Your child should be able to describe the water (fresh or salt), as well as the kinds of organisms that live in or around the water body. Encourage your child to learn how people in the community use the water body. If the water is fresh, do people drink it? Do people use it for bathing or cooking? If the water is salty, do people swim in it? Do they catch fish in it?

At home, instruct your child to make a postcard describing the water body for people who might want to visit it. The postcard should clearly identify whether the water body is a lake, stream, pond, or some other type of water body. Your child should include illustrations of the water body and of any organisms that live nearby. The illustrations should also show how people use the water body.

Here are some questions to discuss with your child:

1. How do people in our community use this water body?
2. Why is the water in this water body useful for these purposes?
3. Has our community had to address problems with the water body such as pollution or overuse? If so, how have we attempted to solve these problems?