

OCEAN

Our Earth has only one oceanic

The **Atlantic Ocean** is named after the Greek mythological figure Atlas, who was said to be strong and to carry the world on his back.



The **Pacific Ocean** (the largest) was named by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan in 1520. He was leading a fleet of ships from Spain, in search of a western route to the Spice Islands. In late November, his three remaining ships sailed into what Magellan described as a "beautiful, peaceful ocean." Its name became Pacific, from the Latin word for peaceful.



The **Southern Ocean**, once called the Antarctic Ocean, surrounds the continent of Antarctica and was renamed in 1999. This ocean's large, strong, circumpolar current carries 150 times more water than all of the world's rivers combined. When it flows near the strong currents in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans, it mixes with their waters. The Southern Ocean's fierce



NOTIONS

water, but different parts of it have different names.

ARCTIC OCEAN



The **Arctic Ocean** (the smallest) is named for the region around the North Pole. The word "arctic" comes from the ancient Greek *arktos*, or bear, for the bear constellations Ursa Major and Ursa Minor, which include Polaris, the North Star.

The **Indian Ocean** is named for the subcontinent of India, the name of which in turn comes from the Indus River. Early Persian explorers could not properly say the "s" in *sindhu*, the Sanskrit word for "river." Their pronunciation of "hindu" later became "indos" and "indus" to invading Greeks and Romans, respectively.



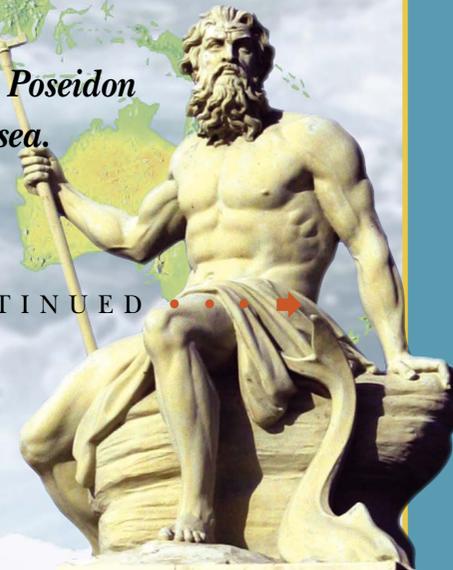
INDIAN OCEAN

In Greek mythology, Poseidon became ruler of the sea.

winds and storms, sea ice, and icebergs have made its waters the least explored in the world. Its currents, sea ice, and cold waters can affect climate everywhere.

CONTINUED

SOUTHERN OCEAN



DID YOU KNOW?

The word "ocean" comes from the Greek word *Okeanos*.

19th-century Russian oceanographer Yuly Shokalsky came up with the words "world ocean" to describe all of the water.

Ocean water covers more than 70 percent of Earth's surface.

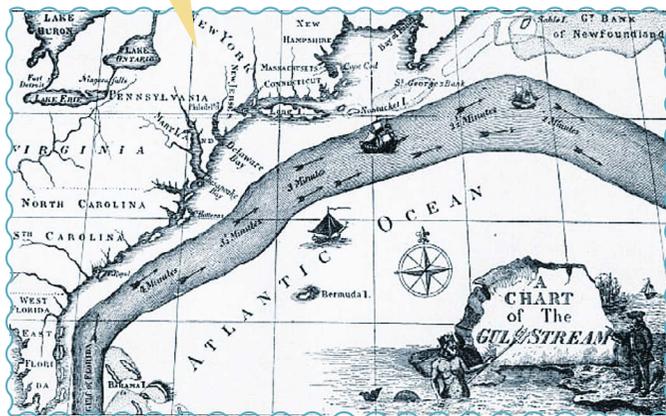
Going With the FLOW



In 1768, when Benjamin Franklin was joint postmaster general of the American colonies, he noticed something strange: It took two weeks longer for ships carrying mail to sail from England to the colonies than for ships to sail from the colonies back to England. Why? he wondered.

Franklin spoke with a sea captain, who told him about a current in the Atlantic Ocean that he called the "gulf stream." The gulf stream caused ships going to England, in the direction of its flow, to speed up and caused vessels traveling to the colonies, or against the stream, to slow down. Soon after that, Franklin made the first map of the Gulf Stream (shown below) and helped to make it well known.

Now we know that the Gulf Stream influences the weather on the east coast of North America and the west coast of Europe.



Drowned Out?

In Greek mythology, Oceanus ruled the ocean, which was believed to be a great river that circled Earth. He married Tethys, and the couple had 3,000 daughters and 3,000 sons, all called Oceanids—the spirits of rivers, waters, and springs. Oceanus and Tethys were eventually overthrown, and Poseidon and his wife, Amphitrite, became rulers of the sea.

DEEP THINKER



In 1979, in waters off the island of Oahu, Hawaii, a submersible carried oceanographer and undersea explorer **SYLVIA EARLE** 1,250 feet below the ocean's surface—deeper than any living human being had ever reached. She then explored the seabed, walking untethered for 2½ hours in a pressurized suit. Today, she is sometimes called "Her Deepness," and *Time* magazine designated her its first "hero for the planet" for her decades of scientific research. Earle believes that the ocean has no borders and that we must all work together to protect it.



Our Earth is about 70 percent water and 30 percent land. What if these percentages were reversed? Here is one artist's map of what this very different world might look like:

