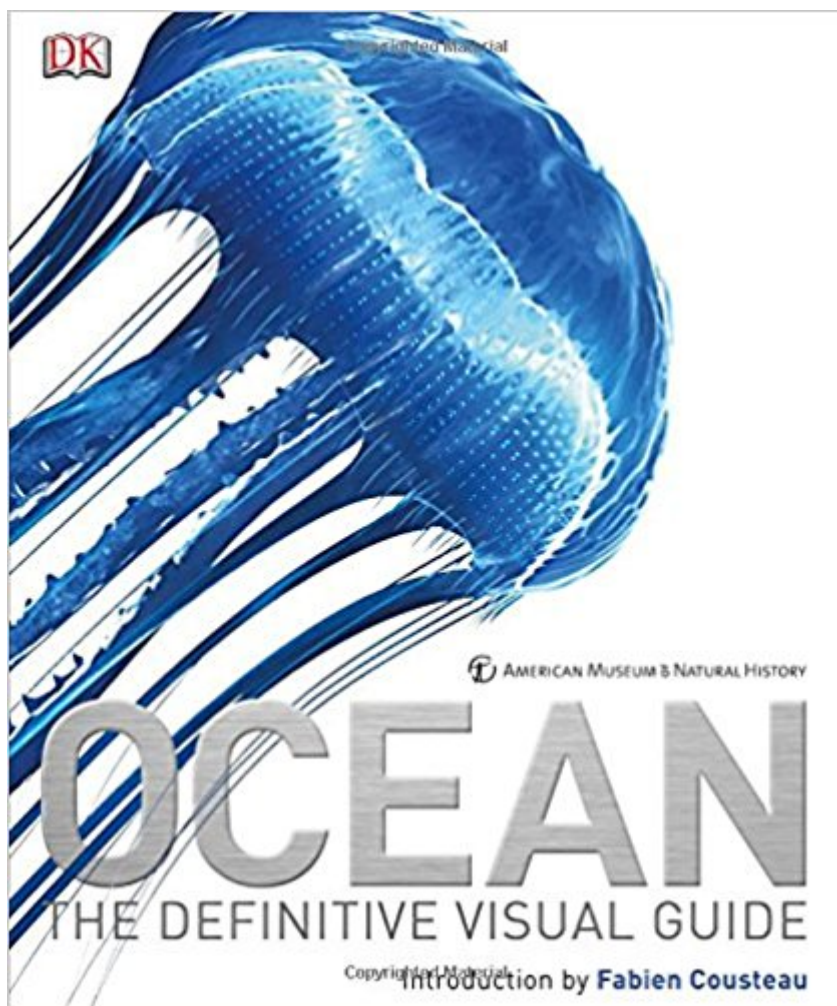




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# Ocean



## 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 starts 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. It starts with the sedentary corals, bryozoans, and other beautiful and colorful critters of simple habits. The authors work their way up to bottom-dwelling benthos and the free-swimming nekton. That includes fish, sharks, porpoises and whales, turtles, and other wonderful beings. Next come birds, lizards, seals, and other lives spent on or only partly in the sea. But you won't take it in order - you won't be let to if you have a kid in your lap when you read it. So much of this book is so exciting, even parts you might not have guessed, that you're sure to skip around, finding new surprises nearly every time you flip to a new page. It's huge fun, good science, and a great way to stir any child's (or adult's) fascination with the majority of the world's surface and the lives in it. //wiredweird

This book is amazing. The pictures, details and pure passion for the ocean practically jump through the pages. I bought this book for research for a book I'm writing, but I'm so caught up in it that I have barely written anything down because it's just so mesmerizing! Plus, my kids barely let me have a moment alone with it. They are in love with it just as much as I am and we're learning so much together! Amazing resource and book for the coffee table!

Large and hugely comprehensive. Amazing pictures, extensive information. Kiddo loves it and is always spouting interesting facts.

A beautiful book covering everything from the composition of ocean water to the varieties of coast lines, coral reefs, currents and ocean creatures of all sorts. I am learning so much and having fun doing it.

I see some reviewers describing this as a huge coffee table book. Mine is 8.5" x 10." Also, I think of a coffee table book as heavy on full page photos and light on text. This has very few full page photos and quite a bit of text (broken into boxes so it's easier to go through). It's not boring or dry (sorry - no pun intended), though. It's wonderful. It's full of information and it's terrific for grown ups or older children. I bought it for my 8 year old and although it's a little over his head right now, it's not entirely inaccessible (he'll love the photos). I know he won't outgrow it like some books aimed toward children. It's just not a huge, arty coffee table book about the ocean and its creatures. Keep looking if that's what you're looking for. This is more of a lively, very interesting text book with terrific, multi-sized photos. Wish I'd had a text book this cool in college!

Flawless encyclopedia covering oceans and seas, currents, and ocean life, this is the best book of it's kind.

I was visiting La Jolla (San Diego), California and found this book at the Birch Aquarium. Instantly, after browsing a few pages, I decided to buy. It was like love at first sight. This book is arranged like an encyclopedia. It may take a while (maybe months!) to read the entire content. One section of the book is dedicated to all kinds of marine animals as small as micro plankton to gigantic whale shark. If you have a saltwater aquarium, this book is a must-have since it has numerous references to invertebrate and fish.

What a cool book!

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