

Ocean Connections



How is your home and lifestyle linked to the sea? Whether it is the air we breathe, the food we eat, or the products we buy, many things link us to the ocean. This activity will lead you on a scavenger hunt throughout your home to find those connections.

Grab two or three sheets of loose paper, colored pencils or crayons, and use them to jot down your findings for each of these four questions.



1. Many ingredients in our food and household products contain things that come from the sea (even though we may not be able to see, smell, or taste it!)

Find a household item or food that contains algae or algae derivatives. Search for “Alginate”, “Agar”, or “Carrageenan” on the label. *Hint: Algae is common in toothpaste, chocolate, dog food, or as a thickening agent in foods such as ice cream!*

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3. Find three items in your home that were made in a country other than where you live. Write down the name of the country and determine if it was transported across an ocean or sea to get here.

Write down the name of the oceans it would have crossed to get to your home (assuming the shortest route). *Hint: Use a world map or Google Maps to figure out the most likely route these items took.*

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2. Waterways connect land and sea! Find the major waterway that leads from near your house to the ocean. What is it called? **How far would you need to float or swim before you reached the ocean?** *Hint: Go to Google Maps and follow the nearest waterways out to the sea. Trace your path and estimate the distance.*

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4. What items in your home are most likely to end up in the ocean? **Choose one to three items that are most likely to get to the ocean and write or draw a story of how it could get there.** *Hint: Think about if these items float or not. How are these items disposed of and where do they go after they are picked up by a garbage or recycling truck?*

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