



## STUDENT ACTIVATION



# Oceanographer

**Oceanographers** study the ocean to learn about the past, present, and future. They use a mixture of math and science to look at the physical and chemical properties of the ocean and how they affect climate, weather, and coastal areas. They may also be ocean engineers, building systems to help monitor ocean environments. If you are a swimmer who loves the outdoors and a good adventure, being an oceanographer might be the perfect career for you!

## OCEANOGRAPHER <sup>1</sup>

Did you know that ninety-eight percent of the ocean floor is unexplored? **Oceanographers** plan and carry out field studies—conducting surveys and collecting samples. They then take the samples back to the laboratory to test them. They may also look at past logs and analyze aerial photographs to get more of a global view of their study site. They also make their own maps and charts along the way. These explorations lead to finding underwater landforms, new species, or insight into historical ways of life.

## IS OCEANOGRAPHER A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Me	Oceanographer
I like thinking outside the box and solving problems.	Oceanographers are complex problem solvers.
I am physically fit and enjoy being outside or in the water.	Oceanographers spend a lot of time outdoors and need to be comfortable in, on, and around the water for long periods of time.
I like learning new and interesting things.	Oceanographers are curious and adventurous.
I am interested in school subjects like science and math.	Oceanographers study earth science and marine biology in college.
I enjoy working with others and explaining things to help people learn.	Oceanographers are strong communicators and team members.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.americangeosciences.org/education/k5geosource/careers/oceanographer>

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STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



How does this career help me?	How does this career help the world?
<p>The ocean absorbs carbon dioxide and distributes heat and moisture around the world. Some oceanographers spend their careers studying the relationship between the ocean and atmosphere and how that relationship affects weather patterns. So, the next time you open your weather app to decide your clothes and activities for the day, thank an oceanographer for all their hard work.</p>	<p>Deep sea exploration helps us understand both how we are affected by the physical earth and how we are affecting it, even offering ideas on how we can be better stewards to Earth. It gives us the tools we need to best respond to major events like hurricanes, tsunamis, and earthquakes.</p>

What are some similar careers?
<p><b>Geologists</b> study Earth's history, processes, and materials. They investigate how rocks were formed and what has happened to them since their formation.</p> <p><b>Anthropologists</b> and <b>archeologists</b> study historical human beings by looking at their origin, development, and behavior patterns.</p> <p><b>Environmental scientists</b> protect the environment and human health by using their knowledge of the natural sciences.</p>

Here are ways to practice the skills to be a successful **oceanographer**:

- Physical stamina is important with outdoor science careers like being a Deep Sea Explorer. With a partner, test your aerobic health with the Cooper 12-minute walk/run test. (There is also a version for swimming and cycling.) See how much ground you can cover in 12 minutes. There are charts online to view how you rank. Does it seem low? That's ok; time to get physical!
- Join the swim team, underwater hockey team, or a rowing club. Get out on the water in a team setting and learn to work together with others toward a common goal while enjoying the water.
- Discuss your course selection with your guidance counselor and try to make sure you are taking classes in advanced and specialized sciences.

