



Black John - the Bogus Pirate

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CALLING ALL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS!

A vast there, Mates! Did you know that the ocean covers 70% of planet Earth and creates 50% of the oxygen in the atmosphere - enough for 'Every Second Breath' that we take?



Did you know that more people (12) have WALKED on the Moon that have even SEEN the deepest part of the ocean directly? Or that plastic waste - when dropped into the ocean - never **EVER** goes away! 'Ocean Literacy' is all about 'understanding the ocean's influence on YOU and YOUR influence on the ocean'. It is based on SEVEN PRINCIPLES:

1. THE EARTH HAS ONE BIG OCEAN WITH MANY FEATURES
2. THE OCEAN AND LIFE IN THE OCEAN SHAPES THE FEATURES OF EARTH
3. THE OCEAN IS A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON WEATHER AND CLIMATE
4. THE OCEAN MADE EARTH HABITABLE
5. THE OCEAN SUPPORTS A GREAT DIVERSITY OF LIFE AND ECOSYSTEMS
6. THE OCEANS AND HUMANS ARE INEXTRICABLY INTERCONNECTED
7. THE OCEAN IS LARGELY UNEXPLORED

Over the next few issues of *Nature's Web* we'll be looking at these seven principles, finding out where you can learn more about them and have a lot of fun along the way.

In the meantime, here are some resources to get you started:
www.explorers.ie - The Marine Institute's Education page for schools
<http://oceanliteracy.wp2.coexploration.org/> - Great ocean literacy site with lots of resources and information.
<http://www.emsea.eu/> - Home of European Marine Educators Association
 And, of course, the excellent Sherkin Island 'Children's Corner' at:
<http://www.sherkinmarine.ie/childrenscorner.htm>

Or join me - 'Black John the Bogus Pirate' - on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/>



Sketches & Text John Joyce

Bringing the Ocean to the Classroom

While few countries have 'Ocean Studies' as a dedicated subject on their school curricula, it is possible to 'marinise' existing curriculum strands by using marine examples. A good example of this is the 'Explorers' Education Programme is supported by the Marine Institute, and is funded under the Marine Research Programme by the Irish Government. It is tuned to the Irish SESE curriculum.

1st PRINCIPLE - The Earth has One Big Ocean with Many Features

While we talk about 'The Seven Seas', planet Earth has only ONE ocean to which every sea is connected. This not only makes it possible to sail from one 'Sea' to another all over the



world, but for every sea to influence all the others. The Ocean is the largest single feature on the planet. It contains mountains higher than Mount Everest and canyons many times longer and deeper than the Grand Canyon. It regulates the world's climate by stabilising the temperature of the Earth and by creating an atmosphere, which protects life on Earth from the most dangerous forms of radiation from the Sun including intense ultraviolet light. The atmosphere, created by the Ocean, also protects us from small meteorites, which burn up due to friction with the atmosphere before hitting the surface.