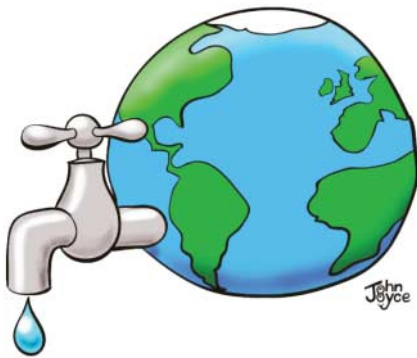


# Aquatic Life



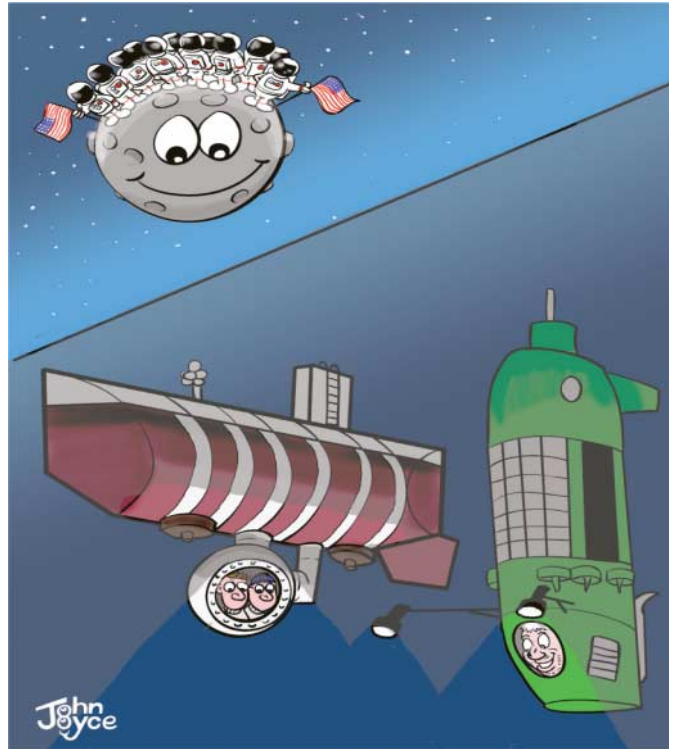
## Planet Earth or 'Planet Ocean'?

Why the Sea is important...



The Sea covers 71% of our planet's surface and contains 97% of our world's water. It plays a key role in the world's weather and climate and is essential for the production of oxygen and absorption of carbon dioxide. Nearly half of all living things on our planet live in the sea, of which it is estimated that only 10% have been catalogued.

The United Nations Atlas of the Oceans reveals that around 60% of the world's population lives within 60 kilometres off the coast, which can be subject to violent change from storms, coastal erosion, flooding and pollution.



In spite of its vital importance to life on Earth, we know so little about the Sea. Only 5% of the seabed has ever been observed by human eyes and just over 100 years ago it was thought that nothing could live beyond the reach of sunlight.

More people (12) have walked on the Moon than have visited the deepest part of the Sea (3) at the Marianas Trench, 10.9 kilometres below the surface of the Pacific in the *Challenger Deep*. These three people were Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard in the bathyscaphe *Trieste* in January 1960, and legendary film director and ocean explorer James Cameron on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

Cameron dived on his own in the lime-green submarine *Deepsea Challenger* and sent back the Tweet 'Just arrived at the ocean's deepest pt. Hitting bottom never felt so good. Can't wait to share what I'm seeing w/ you'.

For more Fun Facts see the Childrens' Page at <http://www.spindriftpress.com>

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