



# MARINE LIFE

***“Great attention gets paid to rainforests because of the diversity of life there. Diversity in the oceans is even greater.”***

Sylvia Earle (1917 – 2008), American marine biologist

## 1. Marine Life Discussion

1. Which animals live in or near the ocean?
2. What are the most beautiful animals that live in the ocean?
3. What are some dangerous animals that live in the ocean?
4. What animals have you seen at the beach?
5. Do you like eating fish or seafood? What are your favourites?
6. Where are the best places in your country to see marine animals? Have you visited these places?
7. Do you think there could be monsters, like giant octopuses, in the ocean?
8. Do you think that all life on Earth began in the ocean? Why or why not?

## 2. Marine Life Vocabulary

- **coral reef** (noun) – *an underwater ecosystem made up of coral, an organism that forms a hard, rock-like substance on the ocean floor.*
- **algae** (noun) – *a plant like organism living in the sea which can be single-celled or multi-celled.*
- **oil spill** (noun) – *a deposit of oil in the sea, usually by accident.*
- **trawler** (noun) – *a fishing vessel that drags a large net behind it to catch fish.*
- **overfishing** (noun) – *the depletion of the quantity of fish in the ocean due to excessive fishing.*
- **sustainably caught fish** (noun) – *fish that have been caught using methods that do not endanger the survival of fish or marine life species.*

**Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)**

1. The cod is now an endangered species in the North Sea thanks to decades of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. If we do not protect \_\_\_\_\_, all the sea life that relies on this ecosystem will perish.
3. The Deepwater Horizon \_\_\_\_\_ caused the largest amount of marine life deaths ever recorded in history.
4. Due to the process of photosynthesis from \_\_\_\_\_, the ocean provides 50% of the oxygen in the atmosphere.
5. Unless everyone buys \_\_\_\_\_, we'll have no fish to eat in the first place.
6. When seagulls follow the \_\_\_\_\_, it's because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea.

### **Marine Life vocabulary comprehension questions**

1. Why are coral reefs important for marine life?
2. Have you ever seen algae that glows in the dark?
3. Can you think of any oil spills that have happened? How did these affect marine life?
4. What do you think of the practice of trawlers using nets that can be over 140 metres long that catch all kinds of marine life? Is it necessary for a cheap source of fish and seafood?
5. Do you think governments should ban fishing, or limit the number of fish caught, to combat overfishing? Why or why not?
6. Would you be happy to pay extra for sustainably caught fish to help protect marine life?

### 3. Video: The Survival Of The Sea Turtle

You are going to watch a TED Ed video called "The Survival Of The Sea Turtle".

**Watch the video here:** <https://yourengishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-marine-life/>

**While you watch the video, answer the following questions:**

#### Multiple choice

1. Sea turtles existed at the same time as which prehistoric animals?  
*a) sabre-toothed tiger    b) mammoths    c) dinosaurs*
2. Which object do turtle eggs resemble?  
*a) tennis balls    b) shuttlecocks    c) table tennis balls*
3. What proportion of turtle eggs will never hatch?  
*a) 20%    b) 30%    c) 40%*
4. How long does it take for a turtle egg to hatch after being laid?  
*a) 30 days    b) 45 days    c) 60 days*

#### Sentence completion

5. Turtle hatchlings make the perilous journey across the sand to the ocean, encountering many threats. Of these, only \_\_\_\_\_ will make it to the water.
6. Hatchlings that make it to the ocean are faced with \_\_\_\_\_ such as fish, dolphins, sharks and seabirds.
7. The leatherback turtle grows to the size of a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Once turtles have reached adulthood, they only have to worry about sharks and the odd \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Short answer

9. What are some of the human activities that threaten turtles?
10. How many sea turtle species are there?
11. Because turtles haven't had time to evolve to respond to the threat posed by humans, how do they find themselves?
12. If a turtle lays 2000 eggs, how many will survive to breeding age with human interference?

## 4. Marine Life Conversation Questions

1. How important is the ocean for the environment and for humans?
2. What human activities are having a negative impact on marine life?
3. Does the amount of plastic in the ocean concern you? What effect does this have on marine life?
4. Why are sea temperatures rising? What effect do you think this will have on marine life?
5. How can fishermen be helped to maintain their livelihoods in a more sustainable way?
6. What do you think about people that hunt endangered species like whales and sharks for cultural reasons? Should we respect their cultural practices, or should this hunting be banned?
7. How would the world be different if the ocean became so polluted that it could no longer sustain life?
8. How can marine life be better protected? What can individuals and governments do?

## 5. Marine Life Writing Task

Write about the threats to marine life. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What these threats are.
- What the consequences of these threats will be for marine life.
- How marine life can be protected.

### **Alternative exam practice question:**

In order to protect and preserve fish species, as well as other forms of marine life, fishing using long lines and nets should be banned. Do you agree or disagree?