

# Unit 3

## Concept 3: Ocean Basins and Geography of the Ocean Floor

### LEQ's

1. What are the major ocean basins?
2. What are the major seas?
3. What are the Earth's major land masses?
4. What are the names of the different geographical features of the ocean floor?

# LEQ 1:

## What are the major ocean basins?

- Ocean basins is another name for oceans.
- Oceans are large expanses of salt water.
  - There are 5 major oceans:
    - Atlantic
    - Pacific
    - Indian
    - Arctic
    - Southern

## LEQ 2:

# What are the major seas?

- Seas are smaller bodies of salt water that may or may not be connected to an ocean.
  - There are 13 seas:
    - South China
    - Caribbean
    - Mediterranean
    - Bering
    - Gulf of Mexico
    - Arabian
    - Sea of Okhotsk (oak osts ka)
    - Sea of Japan
    - Hudson Bay
    - East China
    - Andaman
    - Black
    - Red

## LEQ 3:

# What are the Earth's major land masses?

- Earth's major land masses are also known as continents.
  - There are 7 continents:
    - Asia
    - Africa
    - North America
    - South America
    - Antarctica
    - Europe
    - Australia

## LEQ 4:

# What are the different geographical features of the ocean floor?

- There are 9 geographical features of the ocean floor. Geographical features are made of rocks.
  - Three of these features make up the region known as the continental margin, which is the division between the continents and the ocean.
  - Three of these features are located in the ocean region.
  - Three of these features are located on the ocean surface.

## LEQ 4:

# What are the different geographical features of the ocean floor?

- Continental Margin geographic features:
  1. The Continental Shelf is the portion of each continent that extends into/under the ocean from the coast. This has a shallow slope (downward angle) into the ocean.
  2. The Continental Slope is the steep sloped drop off of the continental shelf to the ocean floor.
  3. The Continental Rise is the another shallow sloped region at the base of the Continental Slope where sediments have piled up after falling down the slope.

- The continental margin geographical features, moving from coast to ocean, are continental shelf, continental slope, and continental rise.

## LEQ 4:

# What are the different geographical features of the ocean floor?

- Ocean geographical features:
  4. The Abyssal Plains are the flat smooth regions of the ocean floor that make up more than 50% of our planet.
  5. Ocean Trenches are long narrow depressions on the sea floor created at convergent boundaries between two tectonic plates. These are the deepest parts of the ocean.
  6. Reefs are underwater structures made of calcium carbonate by coral. Most are in shallow waters (no deeper than 50 feet) however some can be found in deep water.

## LEQ 4:

# What are the different geographical features of the ocean floor?

- Ocean Surface geographical features:
  7. Archipelagos are any groups of islands found in open water or off the coast of land.
  8. Atolls are circular reef islands with lagoons in the center. Atolls are formed on the remains of extinct volcanoes.
  9. Barrier Islands are islands or island chains that run parallel along the coast of another body of land. They serve as protection from storm swells.