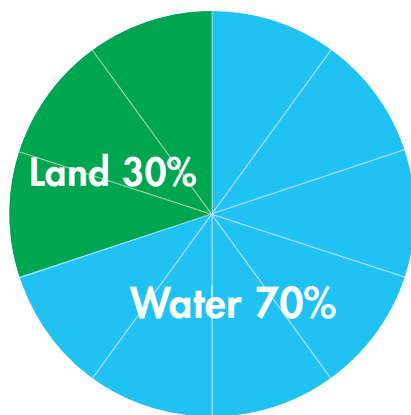


# Deep Sea Exploration

By Steve Katz

People always talk about how incredible it would be to travel to Mars or some other distant planet. Yet some of the largest places that have never been visited are right here on Earth. The ocean is full of incredible unexplored areas!



The ocean is huge. That's because a lot more of the Earth is covered with water than with land. Imagine the Earth was a pie cut into ten slices. Seven of the slices would be made up of ocean, and only three slices would be made up of land. That's why when astronauts view the Earth from space it looks blue rather than green.

## The Unknown Ocean

Oceans contain large areas that have never been explored by humans. Deep under the ocean, it's very cold and very dark. But with special equipment, scientists can see the bottom of the ocean. They do this by sending remote control submarines down into the ocean. The submarines have cameras that let the scientists see what's there. So far, they've discovered underwater plains, mountains, vast canyons, and even volcanoes.

The ocean is surprisingly deep. In fact, one spot is deeper than the height of any mountain on Earth.



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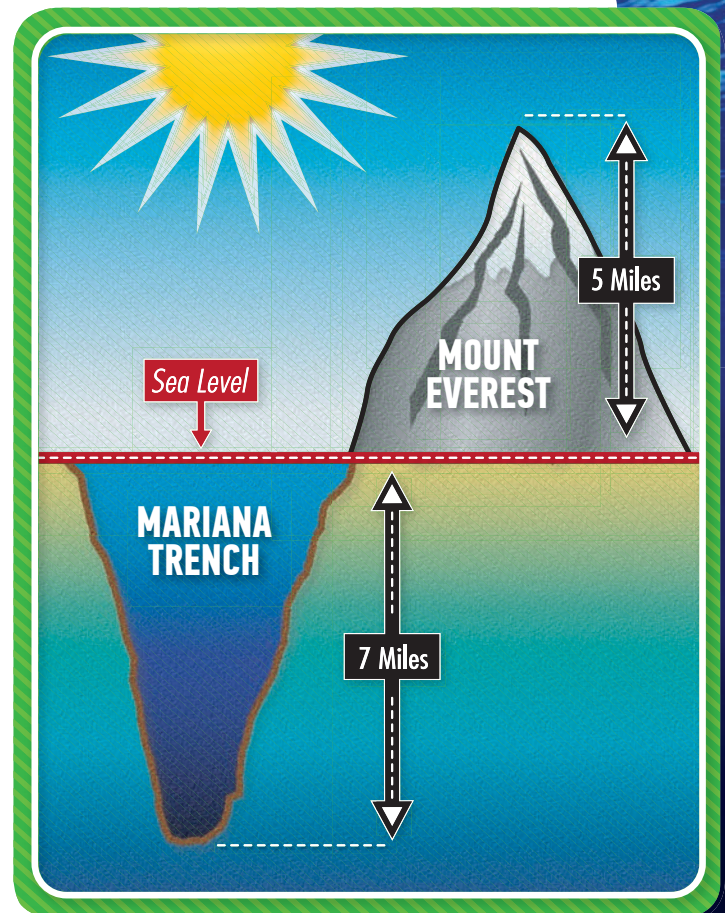
The top of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, reaches five miles up into the air. But there is a trench in the middle of the Pacific Ocean that is seven miles deep! It is called the Mariana Trench.

## Rich With Life

Even though it's very cold and dark down there, the deep sea has lots of life. There are strange glowing fish that make their own light. There is a long eel with 750 bones in its spine, more than any other animal. There is also a giant bug that walks across the ocean floor.

One of the most mysterious deep-sea creatures is the giant squid. This squid can grow nearly 60 feet long and can weigh up to a ton. It has the biggest eyes of any animal in the world. They're the size of beach balls! For years, scientists had only seen the bodies of giant squids that had washed up on shore. Then in 2005, scientists took the first photos of a live giant squid.

The oceans are filled with many more wonders. What other types of things do you think will be discovered down there?



**Deep-Sea Angler Fish**

