

Photo Credit: Marcia Cirillo, Swing Puddles, flic.kr/p/atxek. Copyright and licensing at creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/.

A puddle is a small accumulation of water on a surface, usually the ground. It is shallow enough to walk through and too small to support a boat or raft. Puddles are formed by precipitation, seeping or from a nearby spring.

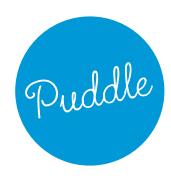




Photo Credit: Sharon Dowdy for UGA College of Ag & Environmental Sciences, Watergarden08, flic.kr/p/a654a5g. Copyright and licensing at https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/.

A pond is a body of water smaller than a lake.

Usually the water temperature at the bottom is the same as the water temperature at the top.

Plants grow abundantly in ponds.

Ponds can be natural or artificial.

Sometimes ponds dry up for part of the year. These ponds are called *vernal ponds*.





Photo Credit: Titus Seilheimer for Wisconsin Sea Grant, A Calm Day on Lake Michigan, July 19, 2015.

A lake is a body of water, usually fresh water, of relatively large size.

Lakes are generally deeper and wider than ponds.

Water at the bottom of a lake is generally colder than the water on top during the summer.

Plants grow near the edges of lakes but not in the middle.

Man-made lakes are known as reservoirs.

Lake Superior is the largest lake in the United States and Canada.



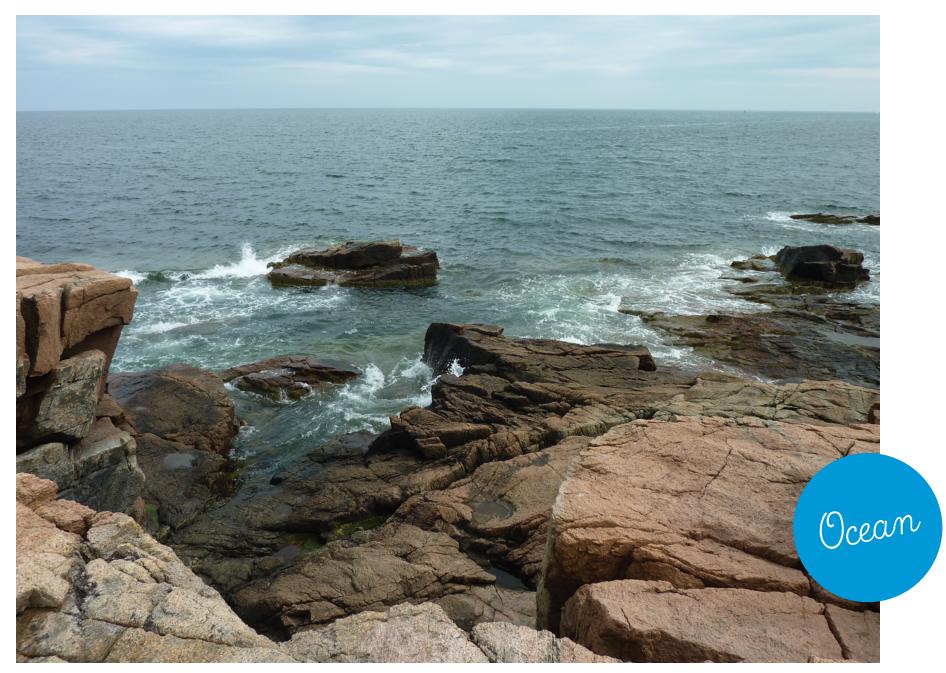


Photo Credit: Kristen Rost, Schoodic Peninsula, Maine.

An ocean is a major body of salt water.

All together, oceans cover about 71% of the Earth's surface.

There are five oceans on the Earth: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern and Arctic.

They are sometimes called "seas," but that is incorrect. A sea is a body of saline water, a division of an ocean, which is partly or fully enclosed by land.

