

Collegedunia NCERT Notes

NCERT Revision Notes

Chapter 2: Oceans and Continents

These notes explain Class 6 Social Science Chapter 2 for the 2026-27 NCERT textbook. The focus is oceans, continents, islands, marine life, rainfall, disasters, ocean protection and map practice.

Also see for this chapter: [NCERT Solutions](#)

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1 Chapter at a Glance

Chapter 2 explains oceans, continents, islands and their role in life on Earth. It connects the blue planet idea with climate, marine life, disasters, trade, culture and ocean protection.



1.1 Big questions

- What are oceans and continents?
- Why does Earth look blue from space?
- How do oceans and continents affect human life?

1.2 Fast revision frame

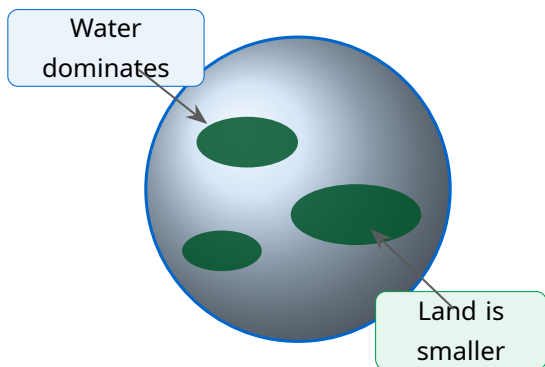
- Oceans are vast interconnected water bodies.
- Continents are large continuous landmasses.
- Islands are smaller land pieces surrounded by water.

Exam Tip

Use O-C-I: ocean, continent and island. This covers the first definition question.

2 Earth as the Blue Planet

Earth appears mostly blue from space because water covers almost three-fourths of its surface. Early astronauts therefore called it the blue planet.



2.1 Water and land share

- Water covers most of Earth's surface.
- Land covers a little over one-fourth of the globe.
- The largest water bodies are called oceans.

2.2 Meaning of landmass

- A landmass is a large body of land.
- A continent is a large continuous expanse of land.
- Both land and water shape climate and life.

Memory Hook

Blue planet means water dominates the view from space.

3 Oceans and Continents Defined

The chapter uses three core terms again and again: ocean, continent and island. Learn them clearly before memorising lists.



3.1 Ocean

- An ocean is a very large water body.
- Oceans contain salty seawater.
- The oceans are connected with one another.

3.2 Continent and island

- A continent is a huge continuous landmass.
- An island is land surrounded by water on all sides.
- Continents are not called islands because they are very large.

Avoid This

*Do not write that oceans are fully separate.
Their boundaries on maps are conventions.*

4 Distribution of Water and Land

Water and land are not distributed equally.

The Northern Hemisphere has more land than the Southern Hemisphere, while the Southern Hemisphere has more water.



4.1 Hemisphere comparison

- Both hemispheres contain land and water.
- The Northern Hemisphere has a larger land share.
- The Southern Hemisphere has a larger water share.

4.2 Map reading cue

- Polar-view maps show circular latitude lines.
- Lines radiating from the poles are meridians.
- The oceans remain connected across map boundaries.

Map Cue

When asked which hemisphere has more water, write Southern Hemisphere.

5 Saltwater and Freshwater

The oceans hold most of Earth's water, but this water is salty. Humans, crops and most land animals need freshwater, which is limited.



5.1 Why water scarcity exists

- Abundant ocean water is not directly drinkable.
- Freshwater is found in glaciers, rivers, lakes, air and underground.
- Groundwater means water below the ground.

5.2 Saving water

- Repair leaking taps.
- Reuse water where safe.
- Avoid wasting water during cleaning and gardening.

Why It Matters

Water scarcity exists because usable freshwater is a small part of Earth's total water.

6 The Five Oceans

The world map in the chapter names five oceans. Their boundaries are shown for convenience, but seawater and marine life move across them.



6.1 Names of oceans

- Pacific Ocean
- Atlantic Ocean
- Indian Ocean
- Southern Ocean
- Arctic Ocean

6.2 Order by size

- Pacific Ocean is the largest.
- Atlantic Ocean is second largest.
- Indian Ocean is third, Southern Ocean fourth and Arctic Ocean smallest.

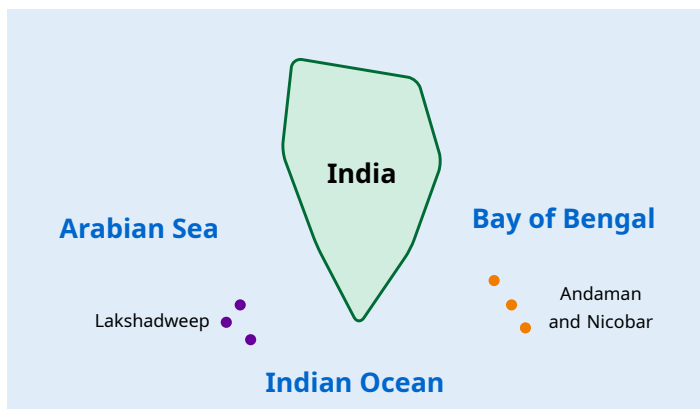
Memory Hook

P-A-I-S-A gives the size order from largest to smallest.

Ocean	Position in size order	Key point
Pacific Ocean	1	Largest ocean
Atlantic Ocean	2	Second largest ocean
Indian Ocean	3	Bounded by Asia, Africa and Australia
Southern Ocean	4	Around Antarctica
Arctic Ocean	5	Smallest ocean

7 Indian Ocean and India

India has a special location near the Indian Ocean. The chapter highlights nearby seas and India's island groups.



7.1 Main limits

- Asia lies to the north of the Indian Ocean.
- Africa lies to its west.
- Australia lies to its east, with the Southern Ocean to the south.

7.2 India's seas and islands

- The Arabian Sea lies west of India.
- The Bay of Bengal lies east of India.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands and

Lakshadweep are major island groups.

Answer Cue

Write Arabian Sea to the west and Bay of Bengal to the east of India.

8 Marine Flora and Fauna

Ocean life includes plant life and animal life. The chapter uses the terms marine flora and marine fauna for these living worlds.



8.1 Marine flora

- Marine means related to oceans and seas.
- Flora means plant life.
- Algae and seaweeds are examples of marine flora.

8.2 Marine fauna

- Fauna means animal life.
- Fish, dolphins, whales, turtles and penguins are examples.
- Different ocean layers have different life forms.

Why It Matters

Ocean plants produce more than half of the world's oxygen.

9 Oceans and Rainfall

Oceans send water vapour into the atmosphere and help bring rain to continents. India's monsoon rains begin from oceanic moisture.



9.1 Water cycle link

- Ocean water evaporates due to the Sun's heat.
- Clouds form and carry moisture.
- Rain falls over land and supports life.

9.2 India example

- Summer monsoon rains originate in oceanic moisture.
- Agriculture depends heavily on these rains.
- Without oceans, Earth would become dry like a desert.

Concept Link

Oceans support rainfall, rainfall supports rivers, crops and daily life.

10 Oceans and Disasters

Oceans support life, but they can also produce dangerous events. The chapter discusses cyclones and tsunamis.



10.1 Cyclones

- Cyclones are violent storms with very strong winds and heavy rain.
- They often damage coastal regions.
- Preparedness reduces loss of life and property.

10.2 Tsunamis

- A tsunami is a huge powerful ocean wave.
- It is usually caused by an undersea earthquake or volcanic eruption.
- It can travel thousands of kilometres and flood coastal areas.

Avoid This

Do not confuse a tsunami with an ordinary sea wave. A tsunami is much stronger and more destructive.

11 The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami

The textbook gives the 26 December 2004 tsunami as a major example. It affected India and many other countries around the Indian Ocean.



11.1 What happened

- An earthquake in Indonesia triggered the tsunami.
- India and 13 other countries were affected.
- More than two lakh people lost their lives.

11.2 India impact

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands were badly hit.
- Tamil Nadu and Kerala coasts suffered damage.
- Early warning systems now help protect lives.

Disaster Management

India has a National Disaster Management Authority for planning and response.

12 Counting Continents

Continents can be counted in more than one way. The chapter explains why counts from four to seven are possible.



12.1 Why counts change

- North America and South America may be seen separately or together.
- Europe and Asia form one landmass called Eurasia, but are often counted separately.
- Africa and Eurasia may also be joined in some counts.

12.2 Most common count

- The most widely used count is seven continents.
- These are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America.
- Use the seven-continent list for school answers unless asked otherwise.

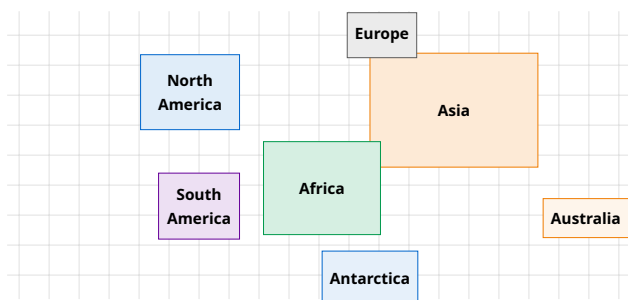
Exam Cue

For Class 6 answers, use seven continents unless the question asks about alternate counts.

Count	Continents in that count	Why it changes
Four	Africa-Eurasia, America, Antarctica, Australia	Some connected landmasses are grouped
Five	Africa, America, Antarctica, Australia, Eurasia	America and Eurasia are grouped
Six	Africa, Antarctica, Australia, Eurasia, North America, South America	Europe and Asia are grouped
Seven	Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America	Most widely used school list

13 Seven Continents by Size

The chapter's square diagram compares the relative sizes of continents. It helps students answer largest, smallest and comparison questions.



Simplified relative-size memory map, not to scale

13.1 Largest and smallest

- Asia is the largest continent.
- Australia is the smallest continent.
- Antarctica is larger than Australia.

13.2 Comparison practice

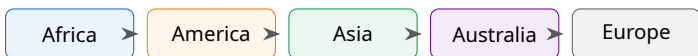
- North America is larger than South America.
- Africa is larger than North America.
- Eurasia is much larger than South America.

Memory Hook

Asia is the largest. Australia is the smallest.

14 Olympic Rings and Continents

The Olympic rings are used in the chapter to show how continents can also be grouped culturally and historically.



14.1 Symbol meaning

- The rings represent the gathering of sportspeople from around the world.
- They were chosen to represent five inhabited continents.
- Those are Africa, America, Asia, Australia and Europe.

14.2 Important caution

- This does not mean Earth has only five continents for every purpose.
- It is one symbolic grouping.
- For the main school list, use seven continents.

Avoid This

Do not mix the Olympic five-continent symbol with the usual seven-continent geography list.

15 Islands

Islands are smaller landmasses surrounded by water on all sides. They are not included in continents on most maps.



15.1 Definition

- An island is land surrounded by water.
- There are lakhs of islands of different sizes.
- Continents are also surrounded by water, but are too large to be called islands.

15.2 Examples

- Greenland is the largest island in the world.
- India has more than 1,300 small islands.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep are important Indian island groups.

Definition Cue

Island means land with water on all sides, but smaller than a continent.

16 India and Antarctica

The chapter links Antarctica with Indian scientific research. Antarctica is very cold, harsh and mostly covered by ice.



16.1 Indian programme

- The Indian Antarctica Programme began in 1981.
- India set up Dakshin Gangotri in 1983.
- Indian teams study climate and environment there.

16.2 Why it matters

- Antarctica helps scientists understand climate change.
- Research stations allow long-term observation.
- The continent shows how land, ice and ocean systems connect.

Science Link

Polar research helps scientists understand

climate and environmental change.

17 Oceans and Human History

Oceans have shaped human movement, trade, food, stories and coastal cultures. They are not empty spaces on maps.



17.1 Human uses

- People used seas to migrate to new regions.
- Ocean routes supported trade in many goods.
- Fishing gave food and livelihoods to coastal communities.

17.2 Culture and imagination

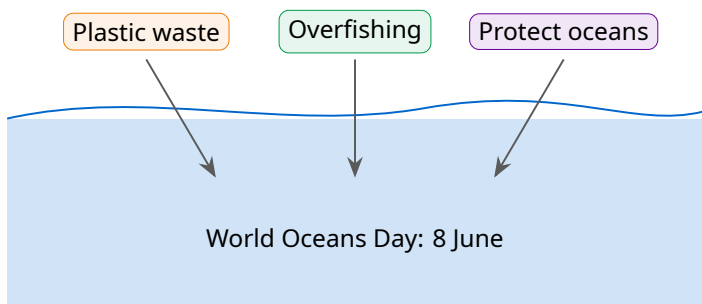
- Coastal communities have stories about sea gods and sea creatures.
- Oceans bring both danger and blessing.
- The Indian Navy motto in the chapter invokes Varuna.

Culture Link

Oceans connect geography with trade, food, travel, defence and storytelling.

18 World Oceans Day and Ocean Protection

The United Nations marks 8 June as World Oceans Day. The day reminds people that oceans are central to life.



18.1 Threats

- Plastic waste harms marine life.
- Other pollution also damages the marine environment.
- Overfishing reduces marine life.

18.2 Protection

- Reduce plastic use.
- Avoid throwing waste into rivers and drains.
- Support responsible fishing and coastal

cleanliness.

Avoid This

Do not describe oceans only as resources. They are living systems that need protection.

19 High Value Comparisons

Many answers in this chapter become easier when close terms are compared. Use the table before writing short answers.



19.1 Definition pairs

- Ocean and sea.
- Continent and island.
- Flora and fauna.

19.2 Process pairs

- Cyclone and tsunami.
- Saltwater and freshwater.
- Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

Revision Code

O-C-I-F-D: oceans, continents, islands, flora and disasters.

Pair	First term	Second term
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Ocean and sea	Vast connected water body	Smaller part of ocean near land
Continent and island	Very large landmass	Smaller land surrounded by water
Flora and fauna	Plant life	Animal life
Cyclone and tsunami	Storm with winds and rain	Huge wave from the ocean

20 Practice Frames

Use these answer frames after reading the chapter once. They match the textbook questions and map tasks.



20.1 Short answers

- Define continent, ocean and island.
- Name the five oceans in size order.
- Name the seven continents.

20.2 Map and activity answers

- Label continents first, then oceans.

- Use different colours for land and water.
- Check island groups around India on the map.

Map Practice

*On a blank world map, label continents first.
Oceans fill the spaces around them.*

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21 Quick Reference Summary

This last section collects must-know facts for quick revision before solving the textbook exercise.



21.1 Must-know definitions

- Ocean, continent, island, marine, flora, fauna and groundwater.
- Cyclone, tsunami, disaster management and early warning system.
- World Oceans Day, overfishing and marine pollution.

21.2 Final recall

- Earth is called the blue planet.
- Pacific is largest and Arctic is smallest among the five oceans.
- Asia is largest and Australia is smallest among the seven continents.

Last-Minute Cue

The chapter moves from water and land to life, disasters and protection.

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