

Where Does Salt Come From?

HAVE YOU WONDERED WHERE THE SALT IN THE OCEAN COMES FROM?



Before you read any further, take a guess! Where do you think the salt in the ocean comes from? Why is the ocean salty?



Imagine tasting a spoonful of ocean water. Yuck! It's so salty! But have you ever wondered why the ocean is salty and where all that salt comes from? Let's dive into the salty secrets of the sea.

The salt in the ocean comes from rocks on land. When it rains, water flows over rocks, breaking them down and carrying tiny particles of minerals and salts into rivers and streams. These rivers flow into the ocean, bringing the salt with them.

Over millions of years, the ocean has become much saltier than freshwater lakes and rivers. The ocean can be thought of as a giant soup pot, with rivers adding pinches of salt continuously. This ongoing process makes ocean water much saltier than lake water.

But why is this salt so important? The salt in the ocean helps create a special environment where many amazing sea creatures can live. Some animals, like fish and crabs, have adapted to the salty water and wouldn't be able to survive in freshwater. The salt also affects how ocean water moves, helping to create currents that carry nutrients and food to different parts of the ocean.

Questions:

Where does the salt in the ocean come from?

How does the salt in the ocean affect sea creatures?

How might the ecosystem of the ocean change if the salt concentration were to significantly increase? What adaptations might sea creatures need to make in response to this change?