

How Important is the Ocean Surface Area in Studying Weather and Climate in the Interior Southwest?

The Interior Southwest is one thousand miles from the nearest ocean. So, why study oceans in this part of the country? How does the ocean impact weather and climate in here? This introductory activity will be important to studying the ocean's impact on weather and climate in the Southwest. As you proceed with this lesson, keep the focusing question in mind.



? What percent of the Earth's surface is covered by ocean water? **?**

MATERIALS

16 inch inflatable globe (one per two students)
Earth/Space Science textbook

PROCEDURE

1. You and your partner will toss the inflatable globe back and forth a total of 10 times.
2. As you catch the globe, you need to catch it with all ten fingers touching the surface.
3. For each toss, you will record the number of fingers touching any part of the oceans.
4. Talk to your partner as you set up a data table in your science notebook.
5. Complete the activity and answer the analysis questions.

ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

1. Explain why you completed a total of 10 tosses of the globe.
2. Based on your data, calculate the percent of Earth's surface that is covered by ocean water? Land?
3. Based on this lesson alone, why do you think it's important to study the oceans while studying weather and climate?

CONCLUSION

Use what you learned in this lesson to write a conclusion to the focusing question.