

The Ocean Supports a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

Ansley Nurkin
North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher
Charlotte Latin School, Charlotte, NC
2nd Place, K-2nd Grade



Ocean Art Contest Awards Ceremony

Seals and Ocean Life

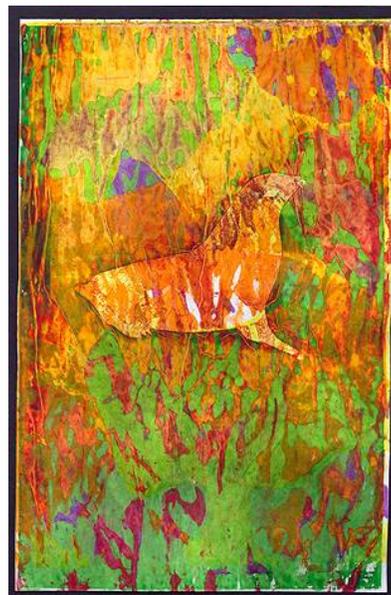
Animals like seals, otter, walrus and polar bears depend on the ocean, land and other animals to live. These animals also need seaweed and other ocean plants to live. It is important that the ocean stays balanced or the animals could die. The seal in my picture represents all the animals that need the ocean and land to live. The seaweed represents all the ocean plants that help animals live. The red and yellow colors are a warning not to let the temperature of the ocean get too high.



Washington, DC
September 26, 2008

Participating Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers:

Acuario de Veracruz
Alaska SeaLife Center
Aquarium of the Pacific
The Florida Aquarium
Georgia Aquarium
Hatfield Marine Science Center & Oregon Coast Aquarium
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Mystic Aquarium
National Aquarium in Washington, DC
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
New York Aquarium
North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher
J.L. Scott Marine Education Center–Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
John G. Shedd Aquarium
Texas State Aquarium
Waikiki Aquarium



The Ocean Supports

a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

Paris Shewfelt

Monterey Bay Aquarium
Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, CA
1st Place, K-2nd Grade

“Lovin’ Sea Otters Comfort”

Surrounded by the Monterey Bay shoreline, my playful
mother & daughter sea otters float together...
wrapped in the kelp forest that gives them comfort and
safety

as the tide goes in and out.

They look to us with eyes of Hope,
that we will take care of their home... today and in the
future.

Deep down in the ocean’s sea floor canyons lives a variety
of coral, rocks, a sea star and jelly fish.

My picture shows how a healthy ocean can provide such
beauty.

Monterey inspires me because it is one of my favorite
places to visit and bring friends.

My passion to paint and be creative allows me to build
friendships

between other kids and introduce them
to the beautiful world living under the sea.

I love to inspire emotions

that turn interest

into protecting our oceans.

Bringing the kids of the green generation

Together....

With the excitement

to

Save our planet.

Coastal America Ocean Art Contest National Winners

Age Group 1, K-2nd Grade

Paris Shewfelt
Ansley Nurkin
Andrew Avila
Jessica Xu

Age Group 2, 3-5th Grade

Malinalli Ramirez Martinez
Anisha Shah
Zoe Maliszewskj
Haedyn Standridge

Age Group 3, 6-8th Grade

Allison Cheung
Jan Fahlbusch
Karen Chen
Cindy Lee

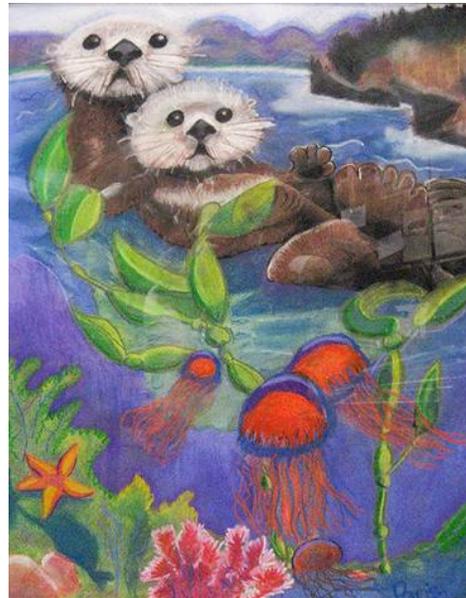
Age Group 4, 9-12th Grade

Caroline Park
Paula Albaneze
Chelsea Finical
Nicole Lee

Age Group 5, College and University

Emeline Prince
Sophia Gueiros Costa
Owen Freeman
YukGee Li

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The Ocean Supports a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

Anisha Shah
Aquarium of the Pacific
Fairmont Private School, Anaheim, CA
2nd Place, 3- 5th Grade

Ocean Ecosystem

The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. In my drawing, I have illustrated sea turtles, fishes, plants, and mollusk shells. All of these animals live together in a habitat. We know things such as their life cycles, what they eat, and how long they live, but we do not know how and if they feel. A picture is like one second of their life. We don't exactly know what they are doing or what will happen next. This is up to one's imagination.



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The Ocean Supports a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

Andrew Avila
Aquarium of the Pacific
Emperor Elementary School, San Gabriel, CA
3rd Place, K-2nd Grade

"Colors in the Crayon Box"

I love to see the creatures of the ocean. My favorite kind of fish has many colors. I had fun touching the baby sharks.



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The Ocean and Humans are Inextricably Interconnected

Malinalli Ramírez Martínez
Acuario de Veracruz
1st Place, 3-5th Grade

“Los animales marinos también tienen su forma de decirnos cuánto sufren”

Los animales marinos también tienen su forma de decirnos cuánto sufren, solamente tenemos que aprender a escucharlos y a entenderlos. Los humanos no somos los únicos pobladores de la tierra, también están las plantas y los animales, y debemos pensar en ellos. Los animales también piensan y tienen sus sentimientos, además de que juegan un papel importante en la conservación de la vida en el planeta. El mar, los seres humanos y los animales dependen de unos de otros, y sin el mar sería muy difícil que la vida continuara en este planeta.

English Translation:

“The sea animals have their own way to tell us how much they suffer”

The sea animals have their own way to tell us how much they suffer, we only have to learn how to listen and understand them. We are not the only inhabitants of the Earth, we must also consider and think about the plants and the animals. Animals think and have feelings too. Also, they play an important role in the conservation of life in the Planet. The Sea, human beings and animals depend on each other. Without the sea, life in this planet would be really hard to continue existing.



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The Ocean Supports a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

Jessica Xu
Aquarium of the Pacific
Emmaus Lutheran School Alhambra, Alhambra, CA
3rd Place, K-2nd Grade

What a Happy Day!

My artwork conveys the 5th principle expressed the ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. When I took submarine at Catalina Island, I saw so many fishes swimming around big size of kelps; I had decided to draw all kind of fishes with all the beautiful colors, lobsters, crab, and wheel all together because I knew the ocean is big enough to have all my favor color fishes in there. And, I knew there are so many different fishes and animals live in the ocean but I never know. I just love the ocean to the tide pools.



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The Ocean Supports a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

Jan Fahlbusch
North Carolina Aquariums
Arendell Parrott Academy, Kinston, NC
2nd Place, 6-8th Grade

Neon Jellyfish

The ocean holds over 2,900 species of jellyfish and related organisms. Normally when people think about the ocean, fish, crabs, dolphins, and whales come to their mind. However, the jellyfish is often forgotten. They are one of the most mysterious creatures in the ocean. You can find them everywhere in the ocean. Some jellyfish even survive in a depth of 12,000 feet. Often, jellyfish swim together in large groups. In addition, they eat almost everything that can be found in the ocean. Normally jellyfish have a transparent-bluish color. Nevertheless, in the deeper waters of the ocean they glow in neon colors. The interesting fact about jellyfish is that they have no eyes, ears, brain, heart, blood, backbone, gills, or scales. Without the ocean, only a few jellyfish would survive on earth, because only some live in freshwater. Today, millions of jellyfish have their habitat in the ocean.



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The Ocean and Life in the Ocean Shape the Features of the Earth

Zoe Maliszewskij
National Aquarium in Washington, DC
Middletown Elementary School, Middletown, MD
3rd Place, 3- 5th Grade

Sea World

My artwork uses sea creatures to represent the shapes of the world's landmasses. This is a visualization of how the ocean has played an important part in shaping the land.



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The Ocean and Humans are Inextricably Interconnected

Allison Cheung

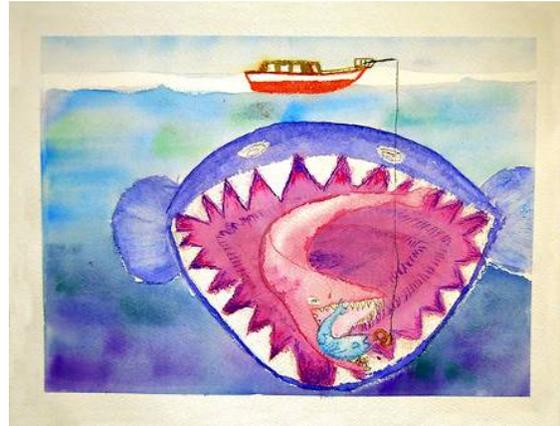
Aquarium of the Pacific
Fairmont Private School/Mable Campus, Anaheim, CA
1st Place, 6-8th Grade

The Ocean and Humans

The ocean has proved to be an important part of human civilization. Again and again, the ocean provides us humans with many resources, and it has helped us in many ways. As a result, the ocean and humans are closely interconnected with one another. Humans need the ocean's help, just as the ocean needs our help.

In my artwork, the human's hand and the wave of the ocean symbolize this bond between humans and ocean. The finger symbolizes all of human civilization. The finger is intertwined with the wave, also showing that their fates are both intertwined as well.

Without the ocean, life would be hard on Earth. The glow from the hand and the wave show that if humans help the ocean, Earth would be a better place to live, and all the animals swim towards that future hope.



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The Ocean Supports a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

The Ocean and Humans are Inextricably Interconnected

Haedyn Standridge

Texas State Aquarium
Houston, TX
3rd Place, 3-5th Grade

Dinner for Four

My picture literally is about Dinner for Four. The only difference is that there's only one thing on the menu: the person (or fish) next to you! In this picture, I show the relevance of the predator-prey cycle and our relationship with the ocean. Here is an acrostic poem using the title of my watercolor:

Deep and divers
Interdependent
Never runs out of life
Need to conserve resources
Economically important
Recycles waste and dead biotic matter
Foreboding
Ominous
Relevant to our lives
Frontier of exploration
Our unpredictable neighbor
Unique
Relished by us



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The Ocean is Largely Unexplored

Paula Albanese
Waikiki Aquarium
Moanalua High School, Honolulu, HI
2nd Place, 9-12th Grade

Deep Search

The ocean is a vast, largely unexplored environment. It was said, before the Space Race began, that the ocean was the final frontier. I still agree. Though we may land on the moon and search the galaxies we will never uncover all of the ocean's secrets. In environments too harsh to sustain life, we find life. In fragile ecosystems untouched by man, we find tiny universes existing as aquatic worlds that defy every physical law known.

It is amazing how mankind years to reach the stars and indulge in the terrifying secrets of the universe, when right here on Earth, those secrets may exist in the depths of our very own oceans. I chose a myriad of sea creatures and floating specks of light to indicate the vastness in which life can exist. Also, some of these creatures react upon being disturbed, hence the squid covering its eye in defense.



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The Ocean Supports a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

Karen Chen
National Aquarium in Washington, DC
May Studio, Ellicott City, MD
3rd Place, 6-8th Grade

Underwater Dolphin

My drawing shows a dolphin swimming and wandering among green plants. This reveals that the ocean supports many different sea animals, by providing them both shelter and food—both very essential things needed in order to survive. Even though only one dolphin and a group of plants are shown, viewers can see that the vast ocean sustains a huge diversity of life and ecosystems. This is how my drawing portrays how “the ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems”.



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The Ocean Makes Earth Habitable

Caroline Park
Aquarium of the Pacific
La Miranda High School, La Miranda, CA
1st Place, 9-12th Grade

Pattern and Ocean Painting

The painting is mainly about how the Earth offers us the ocean, which provides us with beautiful beaches, water, food, and so many significant resources. It is based on how the ocean and its life make the Earth a place for us to live. The water faucet represents how the Earth provides us the ocean. The glass cup represents that the ocean, filled with the sun, water, fish, clams, and much more, gives us abundant resources, making the Earth habitable. We cannot survive without the great things the Earth and its ocean have to offer.



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The Ocean and Humans are Inextricably Interconnected

Cindy Lee
Aquarium of the Pacific
Lorbeer Middle school, Diamond Bar, CA
3rd Place, 6-8th Grade

The ocean is beautiful and very important to us. A lot of food that we eat everyday is from the ocean: fish, crab, soup, and drinks, shown in the picture, as well as other sea animals and plants produce abundant nutrients that we need every day. We also use the ocean for recreation. Ocean sports such as swimming, diving, and snorkeling are popular around the world. People also like to go to the beaches and amusement parks near the beach for relaxation and fun. The water cycle causes the weather. The sun heats the ocean and the water evaporates and forms clouds. The water in the clouds then rains down entering the ground and making the plants grow. Eventually, the water returns to the ocean, and the cycle starts all over. Without the ocean, life on Earth will not exist.



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The Ocean Supports a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

Sophia Gueiros Costa
Waikiki Aquarium
Kapiolani Community College, Honolulu, HI
2nd Place, University

The Beauty of the Edges of Life

What attracts me to the ocean is the fact that there are so many beings that live in it, and they are so different from us. To watch a jellyfish swimming with gracious movements, or to listen to the music sung by dolphins; these moments cannot be experienced in our world, but we must go underwater in order to experience and explore a new and intriguing world full of life. This piece reflects the diversity of life seen in the Ocean, different animals with different shapes, surfaces, colors. As an artist I am intrigued by the variety we experience underwater; my piece not only explores the diversity of life, but this diversity of shapes and edges. There is nothing like coming back from a dive, looking up and there's a turtle swimming quietly against the sunlight, it is a breathless moment: this is life as it is supposed to be.



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The Ocean is a Major Influence on Weather and Climate

Chelsea Finical
North Carolina Aquariums
Arendell Parrott Academy, Kinston, NC
3rd Place, 9-12th Grade

Reflections

The inspiration for this piece comes from the fact that the oceans play a major role in the climates of ecosystems all over the world. The umbrellas that each person is holding are meant to be different “reflections” of the climates that are affected by the ocean in the background. I tried to show a wide range of climates, from tropical rainforest to the arctic to the desert, to show the huge range of the ocean, and how no corner of the globe is untouched by it.



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The Ocean Supports a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

The Ocean and Humans are Inextricably Interconnected

Emeline Prince
Aquarium of the Pacific
University of Colorado at Boulder
1st Place, University

Thicker Than Water

The subject of *Thicker than Water* consists of two horseshoe crabs encircling one another. Horseshoe crabs are a unique part of the ocean's vast diversity of life. Dating back 100 million years before dinosaurs, they are one of the Earth's oldest creatures. The valuable relationship between horseshoe crabs and people goes beyond their place within the ocean's ecosystem. A clotting element in the horseshoe crab blood detects bacteria in human blood and intravenous drugs, and their blood is so valuable that the crabs are caught, blood is 'harvested,' and then released back into the ocean. The color of the horseshoe crab's blood is light blue just as the color of the painting's background. Coupled with the background, red accents highlight the images of horseshoe crabs and the connections with humans and their blood. Horseshoe crabs are a fascinating and unique ocean species, but they are also indispensable contributors to human health.



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The Ocean and Life in the Ocean Shape the Features of the Earth

The Ocean Supports a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems

Nicole Lee
Waikiki Aquarium
Moanalua High School, Honolulu, HI
3rd Place, 9-12th Grade

Green Sea Turtle on the Ocean Floor

The principles that I have chosen is the ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of the earth and the ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystem. The ocean is filled with beautiful and remarkable creatures such as coral and one of my favorite animals, the Sea turtles. This huge diversity of animals help support the life cycle and makes earth habitable for everyone.

In my artwork, I painted an endangered green sea turtle and many marvelous coral and fish. I drew how the shallow oceans would look like and shows a school of fish overhead the turtle. The artwork focuses on the turtle because the Green Sea turtle is almost never seen in the ocean and quite rare. I felt that the turtle was a unique animal in the collection of the diversity of life and painted it among the ocean floor.



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The Ocean is a Major Influence on Weather and Climate

Owen Freeman
Aquarium of the Pacific
Art Center College of Design
3rd Place, University

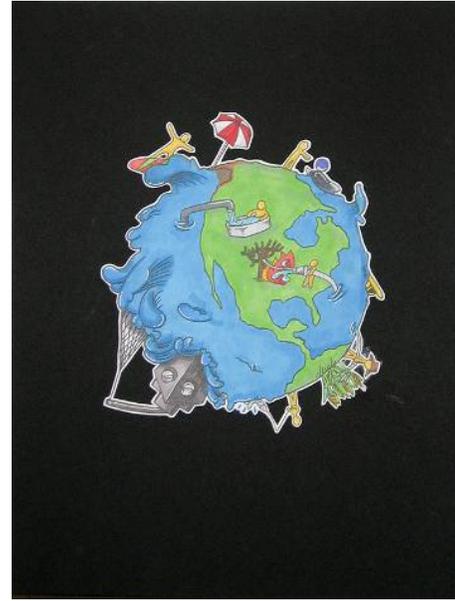
Breaker

This artwork is meant to convey not only the similarities between life above and below the ocean, but also to reflect the cyclical nature of water in a tangible visual way. By allowing ourselves to consider that the ocean floor is as important as the land we walk, the hope is that the notion of disconnectedness can dissolve and we can begin to think from *within* the ocean, rather than simply above it.

The Ocean Makes Earth Habitable

YukGee Li
 New York Aquarium
 Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn, NY
 3rd Place, University

I think that my art work shows the principle that “the ocean makes Earth habitable” very clearly. In my work, you can see that there is a person at the center of the Earth extinguishing a wildfire that is burning down a tree; which represents the forest. Because of the ocean, life is more habitable in a sense that it helps us do what we need to do to upkeep our lives. It helps us feed our crops, habitate part of our food source, lets us keep a clean lifestyle, and much more that isn’t shown here. I think that the few examples I have chosen to include in my art work portrays clearly the principle that “the ocean makes Earth habitable,” because these things are what keeps us alive, and there is no substitute for it.



COASTAL AMERICA OCEAN ART CONTEST | NATIONAL WINNERS
 SMITHSONIAN, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, DECEMBER 2008 – MARCH 2009
 IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER NETWORK