

Top Facts about the Atlantic Ocean

- 1.** With a total area of about 41,100,000 sq mi, it covers approximately 20% of the Earth's surface and about 26% of its water surface area.
- 2.** The first part of its name refers to Atlas of Greek mythology, making the Atlantic the "Sea of Atlas".
- 3.** The largest ocean is the Pacific. The second largest is the Atlantic. The third largest is the Indian.
- 4.** The Atlantic Ocean occupies an elongated, S-shaped basin extending longitudinally between Eurasia and Africa to the east, and the Americas to the west.
- 5.** The width of the Atlantic Ocean is 31,660,446 square miles.
- 6.** The average depth of the Atlantic, with its adjacent seas, is 3,339 meters (1,826 fathoms; 10,950 ft); without them it is 12,880 f
- 7.** The Atlantic Ocean holds 17 quadrillion gallons of water.
- 8.** Maximum temperatures occur north of the equator, and minimum values are found in the polar regions.
- 9.** Scientific explorations include the Challenger expedition, the German Meteor expedition, Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and the United States Navy Hydrographic Office.