Chapter 2: Oceans and Continents

Questions — Questions, Activities and Projects

Q1 Explain the following terms: (a) Continent (b) Ocean (c) Island

SOLUTION

(a) Continent: A large continuous expanse of land is called a continent. The world is generally divided into seven continents — Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. Continents are surrounded by water but are too large to be called islands.

(b) Ocean: The largest water bodies on the Earth's surface are called oceans. There are five oceans — the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian, the Southern (or Antarctic), and the Arctic Ocean. Oceans are all connected to each other; the boundaries between them on maps are only conventions.

(c) Island: A smaller piece of land that is surrounded by water on all sides is called an island. Islands are different from continents because they are much smaller. Greenland is the largest island in the world. India has more than 1,300 small islands, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep Islands.

Answer: A continent is a large continuous expanse of land (seven in all); an ocean is a vast body of water (five in all, all interconnected); an island is a smaller piece of land surrounded by water on all sides.

Q2 Let us draw – Without looking at the maps in this chapter, draw the continents free hand on a sheet of paper and colour them. Then compare your drawing with the map of oceans and continents in the chapter.

SOLUTION

This is a drawing activity. Draw the outlines of all seven continents freehand on a sheet of paper: Asia (largest, top right), Africa (below Europe, centre), North America (top left), South America (below North America), Europe (top centre), Australia (bottom right), and Antarctica (at the very bottom).

After drawing, compare your sketch with Fig. 2.3 in the chapter. Check whether you placed the continents roughly in the correct positions and whether their relative sizes are reasonable — Asia should be the largest and Australia the

smallest inhabited continent.

Answer: Draw seven continents freehand, then check their positions and relative sizes against the world map in Fig. 2.3.

Q3 Let us do – On the outline map of the world given below, label all the continents and oceans.

SOLUTION

On the outline map, label the seven continents: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, Australia, and Antarctica.

Label the five oceans: Pacific Ocean (largest, between Asia/Australia and the Americas), Atlantic Ocean (between the Americas and Europe/Africa), Indian Ocean (south of Asia, between Africa and Australia), Southern Ocean (surrounding Antarctica), and Arctic Ocean (around the North Pole).

Use the world map in Fig. 2.3 as a reference to check the position of each label.

Answer: Label all seven continents and five oceans on the outline map, using Fig. 2.3 as a guide.

Q4 Solve this crossword. Across: 1. Abundantly produced by the oceans. 5. The smallest continent. 8. A major source of pollution of the oceans. 10. The coldest continent. Down: 2. The largest island on Earth. 3. A large expanse of landmass. 4. A huge destructive wave from the ocean. 6. A large continent of which India is a part. 7. The largest body of water on the Earth. 9. A landmass (but not a continent) surrounded by the sea or ocean.

SOLUTION

Across:

1. OXYGEN — The oceans produce more than half of the world's oxygen; they are called 'the planet's lungs'.
5. AUSTRALIA — Australia is the smallest continent.
8. PLASTIC — Several million tonnes of plastic waste are thrown into the oceans every year.
10. ANTARCTICA — Antarctica is the coldest continent, with a very cold climate and harsh environment.

Down:

2. GREENLAND — Greenland is the largest island in the world.
3. CONTINENT — A continent is a large continuous expanse of landmass.
4. TSUNAMI — A tsunami is a huge and powerful wave caused by an earthquake or volcanic eruption at the ocean floor.
6. ASIA — Asia is the large continent of which India is a part.
7. PACIFIC — The Pacific Ocean is the largest body of water on the Earth.
9. ISLAND — An island is a piece of land surrounded by the sea or ocean but smaller than a continent.

Answer: Across: 1-OXYGEN, 5-AUSTRALIA, 8-PLASTIC, 10-ANTARCTICA. Down: 2-GREENLAND, 3-CONTINENT, 4-TSUNAMI, 6-ASIA, 7-PACIFIC, 9-ISLAND.