

10 interesting things about water

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A drop of water, just about to splash. Water is a necessary ingredient for life to form and last. Photo from: Pixabay.

Water is a clear liquid that has no color, taste or smell. It makes up seas, lakes, rivers and rain. Water is one of the most common substances on Earth and covers 70 percent of the planet. Water is necessary for life to begin and continue.

Here are 10 fascinating facts about water.

Water Could Be The Key To Finding Life

All life on Earth needs water. It's in all living things. Water is in plants and animals that are at the bottom of the ocean and in the driest desert. Water made life possible on Earth.

Astrobiologists are scientists who search for life on other planets. They think our best bet for finding life on other planets is to look for water.



Almost All Earth's Water Is In The Oceans

Nearly all water on earth is in our oceans. Water covers a little more than 70 percent of our planet. A very tiny amount is floating above us in the atmosphere. If all of that water fell as rain at once, the whole planet would get about 1 inch of rain.

Most Freshwater Is In Ice

Just about 3 1/2 percent of Earth's water is fresh. That means it has very little salt in it. You can find freshwater in our lakes, rivers and streams, and also in groundwater and glaciers. Glaciers are huge masses of ice that are on the move. About 68 percent of earth's groundwater is locked up in ice and glaciers. Another 30 percent is in groundwater.



Not All Salt Water Has The Same Amount Of Salt

There is about 1 cup of salt in a gallon of ocean water. Some bodies of water have more salt in them than others. The Atlantic Ocean is saltier than the Pacific Ocean, for instance. Most of the salt in the ocean is sodium chloride, which is the same kind of salt we put on our food. The saltiest water in the world is found in Antarctica in a small lake. It is named Don Juan Pond.

A Lot Can Live In One Drop Of Water

There can be a lot going on in a single drop of ocean water. It will most likely have millions (yes, millions!) of bacteria and viruses. Some of these germs are harmless and some are not. A drop could also have fish eggs, baby crabs or even small worms.



Some Water May Have Come From Comets

The rocky material that formed Earth contained some water. Comets are balls of ice and water that shoot through space. Maybe comets fell to Earth and melted. It would take a lot of water from comets to fill the oceans.

It's Really Great That Ice Floats

When solids form, atoms get closer together, making the material denser. This is why most solids sink in water. Ice is actually less dense than water, which is unusual. Molecules are groups of atoms. Water molecules form rings when water freezes. All that space makes ice less dense, which is why it floats.

Our Bodies Are Mostly Water

A newborn baby is almost 80 percent water. Adults are about 60 percent water. Water is involved in just about everything our body does. It's a big part of blood, and we use water to get rid of waste. It helps us keep our body temperature stable. We really rely on water.



In Plants, Water Defies Gravity

Water is sort of “sticky.” It likes to stick to itself and other things. That's why water forms round droplets. Not all liquids do that. This “stickiness” helps get water from the roots of plants up to the leaves. It travels up a plant by holding onto each other and the walls of a tube. It's pulled upward as water evaporates from the leaves at the top.

We See Water In Three Different States, And That's Odd

We see water in all three states: solid ice, liquid water and water vapor. That's actually pretty unusual. All substances can be solid, liquid or gas. A lot of them only change at very high or very low temperatures.