

Editors' Note



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Aakarsh Kankaria

Our city went from the Chennai floods to the Chennai drought in two years. The contradiction is appalling and there is no one to blame but ourselves. We have been taking this resource for granted for far too long and its implications are now upon us.

Being residents of Chennai, we felt the need to spread awareness on this issue. That was the primary reason for choosing this theme-Where's My Water? People seem to remember this problem for one week but forget it in the next. We realized that we needed to communicate the message in a different manner. Thereby, we decided to talk about the benefits of water, reminding everyone of the abundant resources that water provides us with and why we need to conserve it.

In this edition of Newsish, we have addressed the various facets of water including movies, wars, sunken ships and cities, lost treasures, wonders, machines, sports, and religious aspects.

We would like to thank Omana Ma'am and all the teachers involved for giving us the opportunity to make this an E-Magazine. The idea behind opting for an online magazine was to put an end to the large amount of paper wastage we were incurring by publishing a printed edition.



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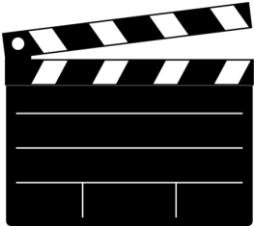
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Quaint Facts About Water

Our bodies are made mostly of water and the water we drink today could contain the same minerals and vitamins that were eaten by the dinosaurs. There are plenty of facts about water.

1. In a drop (one millilitre) of seawater, one can find 10 million viruses, one million bacteria and about 1,000 small protozoans and algae.
2. Less than 1% of the water supply on earth can be used as drinking water.
3. Nearly a billion people worldwide have limited access to clean water. On an average, women in developing countries walk 3.7 miles (6 kilometers) a day to collect water.
4. Bottled water can be up to 2000 times more expensive than tap water.
5. Thirst ensures that creatures maintain a balance of hydration and nutrients, such as sodium, that are vital to the healthy functioning of cells.
6. It is a little-known fact, but insufficient water consumption is actually a risk factor for various types of cancer. Hydration is critical to blood circulation to allow immune system cells to reach damaged tissues in greater numbers.
7. Water dissolves more substances than any other liquid. Wherever it travels, water carries chemicals, minerals, and nutrients with it.
8. Koala bears are one of only two creatures that do not drink water and instead get their water from other resources (in the Koala's case: eucalyptus leaves).
9. Giraffes and rats can last longer without water than camels.
10. An iguana can stay under water for 28 minutes
11. Rain contains vitamin B12
12. Hippopotamuses are born under water
13. An elephant's trunk can hold over 5 litres of water
14. Dolphins can hear underwater sounds from 24km (15miles) away
15. Porcupines float on water
16. 8.5 million tons of water evaporates from the Dead Sea every day
17. The biggest known cloud of water vapour was discovered by Nasa scientists around a black hole 12 billion light years from Earth. There is 140 trillion times as much water in it as all the water in the world's oceans.
18. All the water on Earth arrived in comets and asteroids. It happened between 4.5bn and 3.8bn years ago, a period called the Late Heavy Bombardment.
19. Hot water freezes faster than cold water. This is known as the Mpemba Effect, and no-one knows why it happens.
20. It takes 100 litres to make 2 slices of bread and 65 litres to make the cheese filling in your sandwich.

An eight-foot-tall Lego figurine has washed up on the beaches of the Netherlands, UK, Florida, and Japan. It is the work of a Lego artist- Ego Leonard- and every Lego man of his has "No Real Than You Are" written on its t-shirt

Exotic Sea Creatures

Have you ever seen rare sea creatures? There are so many things to learn from such magnificent creatures. They cannot speak but they still have many wonderful ways to protect themselves from predators: like camouflage, speed, spikes, and poison. Let's find out more about these magnificent creatures under the sea!

Fish out of water!

Mudskippers are one of the only fish that can survive out of water. They have special gills that take oxygen from air or water. They skip along mudflats using their fins as elbows. There are 32 living species of mudskippers that spend up to three quarters of their life on land.

Mudskipper



Now you see it, now you don't!

The peacock flounder is also called the flowery flounder because it is covered in flower like bluish spots. Its eyes can move in any direction independent of each other. These fish are masters of camouflage. They use cryptic coloration to avoid being detected by both prey and predators. Rather than swimming, they crawl on their fins along the bottom of the sea bed while constantly changing colours and patterns. These masters of camouflage can change colour in just eight seconds.

Peacock Flounder



Leaping fish!

Most fish feed in water but a few can catch food out of water as well. The archer fish leaps into the air and picks insects off overhanging branches. An experienced adult can shoot a stem of water four times its own length

Archer Fish



The con artist!

The twin spot wrasse tries to fool its enemies. There are two big spots on its body that look like eyes. It buries itself in the sand and just shows the spots, making it look like a large frightening fish.

Twin Spot Wrasse



Sahana Suman

5B

2

The Starfish

Have you ever wondered what it is like, to live underwater? There are innumerable interesting underwater sea creatures.

Starfish are unique sea creatures that capture the attention of their viewer. Here's why-

- They are beautiful, brightly coloured animals whose shape makes them incredibly intriguing. A fish in the shape of a star? Now that is different.
- They can reach speeds up to 13km per hour.
- Starfish's skin type is rough, which makes it easy for us to spot as there are dots on it.
- They typically measure between 5cm and 20cm in length.
- Female starfish can give birth to 1,000 - 2000 offspring at a time.
- They are very heavy for their size, weighing around 11 pounds.
- Starfish do not have blood ! Their circulatory system consists primarily of water!
- They can easily regenerate their arms.
- They have tube feet for locomotion

These are a few interesting facts I know about starfish. Go ahead and dive into the world of underwater sea creatures and discover more!

Kiaara Hemdev
6B



Secrets of the Midnight Zone

The ocean is a vast body of water. We have explored the top layers of the ocean and have collected information about them. But have you ever wondered what really lies at the bottom of our oceans? The truth is, there are many creatures down there, monstrous and bioluminescent, thriving in the inky black darkness. Welcome to the deepest zone of the ocean: The Midnight Zone. It is a region between one and four kilometers below the ocean surface where no sunlight penetrates. Some of the creatures that live in this zone are-

- ❖ Anglerfish females have a piece of dorsal spine that protrudes about their mouths, with a bioluminescent feature. This protrusion is used to attract prey and helps in mating.
- ❖ Crystal Jellyfish have a chemical in their organs which help them float. When their stimulus is disturbed, they emit a green- blue light due to several light producing organs.
- ❖ The body of a Lantern Fish glows in the dark waters, due to bioluminescence, to attract prey and for mating.
- ❖ Blob Fish is actually a type of fish, but looks like a blob of slime with eyes, nose and mouth.
- ❖ Gulper Eels can eat prey twice their size because of their giant mouth!
- ❖ Faceless Fish are so called because they really have no face! They have organs under flaps of skin to sense their surroundings.
- ❖ The Humphead Wrasse can grow up to 7 feet long! It preys on scavenged bits and pieces of fish carcasses which float down from the upper zone.
- ❖ There are carnivorous corals in the midnight zone! They trap fish in nettles and absorb its nutrients.
- ❖ The Goblin shark and Frilled shark have been thriving in our oceans since the Mesozoic Period (266 million years ago).
- ❖ The Spook Fish has a transparent face which it uses to scare other fish.

There are many wonders in our amazing large oceans, with diverse creatures thriving in them. Many more secrets are yet to be discovered. Maybe the Megalodon- the biggest shark ever to exist, that is now believed to be extinct- still thrives in the Mariana Trench or the Kraken really exists! The dark abyss that we call the ocean leaves us wonder struck with these questions!

Crystal Jellyfish



Angler Fish



Blob Fish



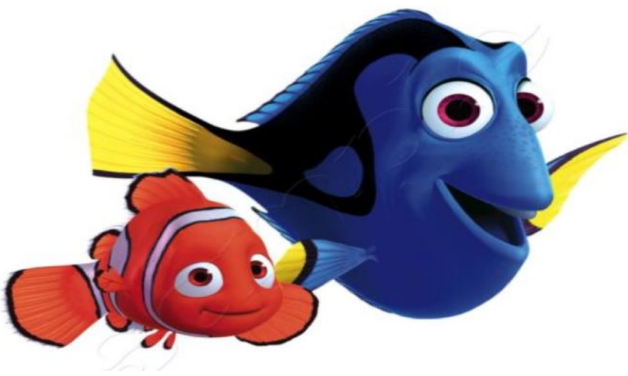
Rian Nair

7A

Movies Based in Water

Finding Nemo

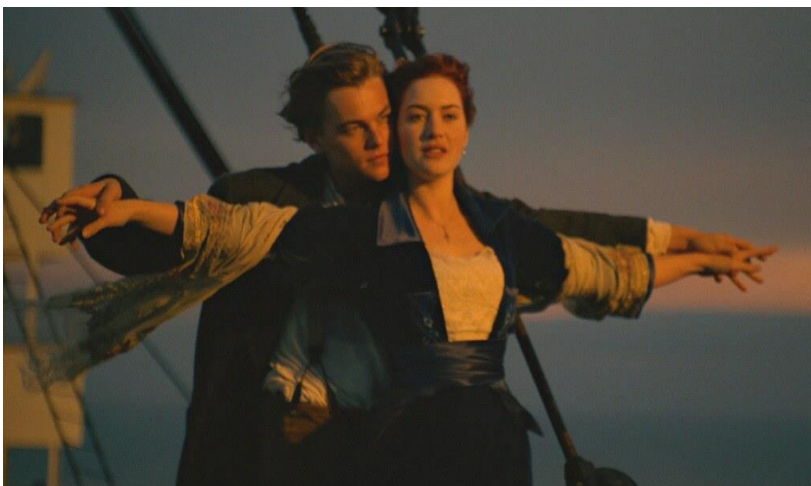
Originally released in 2003, Finding Nemo is a popular movie about a clown fish's (Marlin) adventures to find his son Nemo, who gets abducted at the great barrier reef. On his journey to find his son, Marlin makes acquaintance with Dory, voiced by Ellen DeGeneres, a fish with short term memory loss who helps him look for his son. Meanwhile, Nemo is stuck with a dentist who is planning on gifting him to his niece Darla, a small girl with auburn pigtails and braces, who is notorious for torturing her previous fishes. With the help of a moorish idol named Gill, who provides a master plan for Nemo to escape, Nemo manages to return to the ocean and find his father. The movie's sequel, Finding Dory, is the story of how Dory manages to regain her memory and find her parents with the help of a seven tentacled octopus Hank ('Septopus' as Dory calls him).



Off the coast of Florida, some 14,000 feet under water, the engines from the Saturn V rocket, which launched Neil Armstrong into outer space on the Apollo 11 mission, were discovered after 43 years by Jepp Bezos, CEO of Amazon.

Titanic

Titanic, the third highest grossing film of all time, is loosely based on a true story. The story is brought out in the form of a narration by an old woman, Rose, telling people exploring the ship in real time about her journey as a passenger on the Titanic. The story switches between Rose's tale and "flashbacks" to the past. The story being explained is about a 17-year-old, Rose, who boards the ship- The RMS Titanic with her fiancé Caledon. Rose ends up meeting and falling in love with an artist named Jack Dawson, who had won tickets to sail aboard the Titanic along with his friend. The movie ends in tragedy and heartbreak and is certainly tear jerking. It is considered a masterpiece by many. The movie starred Leonardo Di Caprio as Jack and Kate Winslet as Rose.



Sarayu Sankriti Kaushik 9C &
Ann Susan George 9A

Wars that took place on water

Battle of Cape Ecnomus

In 256 BC, during the First Punic War, a colossal battle, one of the greatest naval battles in history took place off the coast of Sicily, Italy. As many as 330 ancient Roman ships confronted 350 Carthaginian ships. The combat between these two massive ancient powers is known as the Battle of Cape Ecnomus. Ancient Romans tried to rule the Mediterranean Sea, but they had a powerful enemy that could not be easily defeated – the Carthaginians. Carthage was without doubt one of Rome's most threatening rivals regarding control of the Mediterranean Sea. Each ship had around 300 rowers and 120 combat troops, which adds up to a total of some 300,000 men. Even though they had fewer ships, the Romans won after a long struggle and only suffered around 10,000 fatalities while the Carthaginians lost more than 40,000.



Battle of Leyte Gulf

The Battle of Leyte Gulf occurred between October 23rd and October 26th, 1944, during World War II (1939-1945), and is regarded the conflict's greatest naval engagement. Returning to the Philippines, Allied forces began touchdown on Leyte on October 20th, 1944. Responding, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched strategy Sho-Go 1. Being a complex operation, it called for several forces to strike from numerous directions. Central to the scheme was luring away the American carrier groups that were defending the landings.

Moving forward, the two aspects clashed in four breathtaking engagements as part of the large battle: Sibuyan Sea, Surigao Strait, Cape Engaño, and Samar. In the first three, Allied forces won clear victories. Off Samar, the Japanese, having been successful in luring away the carriers, failed to press their gain and withdrew. In the course of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the Japanese suffered heavy losses in terms of ships and were unable to mount large-scale operations for the rest of the war.



Sarayu Sankriti Kaushik 9C &
Ann Susan George 9A

A Trip to the Staff Room

Jayashree Ma'am

Sanjana Unni 12C &
Sakshi Dey 12C

Q. How long have you been in Sishya?

Jayashree ma'am: I have been in Sishya for 22 years now.

Q. How has Sishya changed since you joined?

Jayashree ma'am: I cannot think of any major change, since the time I have joined it's been the same, except for the new batch of students who join every year.

Q. What is the one passion or hobby that you have always had?

Jayashree ma'am: I love to read lots of books, but recently I have not got the time to read that many books although I would keep borrowing them from the Sishya library.

I also love to hear more melodious Tamil and Hindi songs - especially 1980s to 2000 and bhajans.

Q. Tell us a little about your school life.

Jayashree ma'am: I have a busy schedule throughout the year. There is a lot of paper work which needs to be completed on time, without any delay. You always have to be ready for everything.

Q. If you could go anywhere in the world right now, where would you go?

Jayashree ma'am: I'm not interested in travelling although I have always been interested in going to the Himalayas as it is a place which relaxes the mind. I can enjoy its beauty, weather and rivers.



Jayashree Ma'am

Shanna Abraham 11C &
Dishaa Dand 11C

Q: When did you join Sishya?

Jayashree ma'am: My journey in Sishya started in 1984. I have been working in Sishya ever since I finished my studies in college.

Q. What is your favorite part about Sishya?

Jayashree ma'am: I cannot choose a favorite part. I love everything about Sishya. The children here are wonderful. I love and respect all my superiors without whom I would not have been here. I had just finished my college when I was offered this job and all of my superiors have always been ready to help and guide me.

Q. What would you like to tell all the students of Sishya?

Jayashree ma'am: I would like to tell all my students that they should be proud of being Sishya students. This school gives them all round development which ensures that they do well in life. My children are Sishya alumni and are very proud of it.

The students here learn "sharing and caring" and to "march together under the banner blue". They understand the value of cooperation.

Q. Could you tell us about any life lesson that you have learnt from Sishya?

Jayashree ma'am: Sishya has become an integral part of my life. When I joined Sishya, I was meek and did not know how to talk to people, later I gained a lot of confidence. All my superiors have guided me all along. Sishya did not give me a life lesson, it gave me life itself.



Vijayalakshmi Ma'am

Dhruv Batra 12A &
Zayn Sadiq Sait 12C

Q. Tell us a little bit about your experience in Sishya.

Vijayalakshmi ma'am : I used to teach Mathematics in a CBSE school and later I joined Sishya in 2012, teaching classes 9, 10 and 11. I did not find the transition from CBSE Mathematics to ISC Mathematics too challenging as the syllabus is very similar but there was, however, a difference in the evaluation. It's been seven years since I joined- seven fruitful and happy years.

Q. What was school life like for you and how does it compare to students' lives now?

Vijayalakshmi ma'am: I was in an all-girls' school as well as an all-girls' college. Students in co-ed schools are lucky as they definitely have more exposure. The attitude of children now is vastly different. They have very high expectations from their parents. In my generation, the only teachers available were school teachers. Now there are tutors, both offline and online, who are very knowledgeable.

Q. If you could spend a day with any celebrity, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

Vijayalakshmi ma'am: Definitely Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. He was simple and humble despite having reached great heights. He's my role model. Once, when my husband was with the Army, I was admitted into the same hospital as Dr. Abdul Kalam, who was then the President. It was surreal.

Q. What's your dream job?

Vijayalakshmi ma'am: I'd say a doctor. I love the combination of medicine and good looks. As a matter of fact, my younger son is pursuing medicine!

Q. Tell us a bit about your journey as a teacher.

Vijayalakshmi ma'am: I studied in a state board school here in Tamil Nadu, I did my B.Ed and M.Ed here as well. I worked as a teacher in CBSE for around ten years and travelled all over India as my husband is in the Army. He's retired now so we're planning to move to my native place and focus on the family. I'm grateful to have been in Sishya. I'll never forget the memories I've made here.

Tasneem Ma'am

Ann George 9B &
Adam Libby 10C

Q. What and who made you start teaching? How long has it been since you first stepped into Sishya?

Tasneem ma'am: My mother is the motivation behind me being a teacher. She inspired me to do B.Ed and that's when I realized that I had the potential to be me. I joined school in 2008.

Q. What trait would you like to borrow and from whom?

Tasneem ma'am: My mother has been my mentor and guide and I would like to be as calm and positive as she is.

Q. What do you think students can do to help water conservation? Does Geography have a part to play in the water crisis? If yes how?

Tasneem ma'am: To harvest and recycle water. To keep a check on water usage at home and in school. It is a global crisis and we are all part of it, irrespective of the subject we teach.

Q. What superpower would you like to have and why?

Tasneem ma'am: To have a magic wand and wave it to and fro to help wipe out poverty, hunger, conflicts and unhappiness on Earth.



Water Scarcity

Water is one of the world's most precious resources, yet it is completely taken for granted. The looming problem of water scarcity has grown manifold over the years due to various factors yet very little is done about it.

Surface water conditions are inadequate. However, the groundwater situation is even worse. Groundwater extraction is rampant and has become increasingly unsustainable. Consequently, in many parts of the country, groundwater levels are declining steadily. A lack of proper wastewater treatment from domestic, industrial, and mining sources has meant that groundwater is being progressively contaminated by known and unknown pollutants, increasing the potential health risks to humans and the ecosystem.

India is now facing a water situation that is significantly worse than any that previous generations have had to face. Almost all Indian water bodies are now grossly polluted with organic and hazardous pollutants. Interstate disputes over river waters are becoming increasingly intense and widespread. Not a single Indian city can provide clean water that can be consumed from the tap on a 24/7 basis.

However India is not facing the problem of water scarcity alone. Various countries such as Libya, Yemen and countries in Africa are facing major water problems as well. From water pollution to injudicious use of water, the concept of sustainability of water is the need of the hour.

Water scarcity, both natural and of human origin, is the lack of sufficient available water resources to meet the demands within a region. Water scarcity is one of the most prevalent issues in today's world. Everywhere we look there are people carrying pots of water to their houses for basic needs. However, these conditions can be improved.

The first thing we can do is educate both the people who are facing water scarcity and the people who are not. By educating those who are not dealing with water scarcity, they can be in a position to help. Those who are dealing with it can get educated on how they can prevent the problem from worsening in the future.

Rainwater harvesting and recycled wastewater also allows to reduce scarcity and ease the pressure on groundwater and other natural water bodies. Groundwater recharge, that allows water moving from surface water to groundwater, is a well-known process to prevent water scarcity.

Farming and irrigation are often a huge culprit when it comes to water scarcity. We must improve agricultural practices to minimize water wastage. Technology can play a huge role in this matter as it can provide the means to improve existing conditions and prevent further depletion of groundwater.

Clean drinking water starts with a good sewage system. Without proper sanitation, the water in an area becomes ridden with disease and other problems. By improving the sewage systems in these areas, we can prevent water scarcity from worsening.

These are just some of the many ways in which we can help ourselves and the people around us battle the looming issue of water scarcity.

Shanna Abraham 11C &
Parthivi Mohunta 9A

The Chennai Water Crisis

Climate change is very real and we are feeling its effects in our day-to-day lives as well. The past few months have seen Chennai facing a severe drought, leaving very little water to meet the requirements of the 10 million people living here. Chennai's water supply primarily depends on the monsoon rains. Two years of deficient rainfalls in 2017 and 2018 have resulted in the drying up of four main reservoirs in Chennai.

The Centre for Climate Change blamed road construction - highways and flyovers, airports and high-rises- for depleting water resources in Chennai. These development projects were undertaken on reclaimed water bodies and are largely to blame. Chennai's main reservoirs - Cholavaram (full capacity 1,081 mcft) and Redhills (3,300 mcft) - are dry while the storage at Poondi reservoir is 24 mcft as against the full capacity of 3,231 mcft. Buckingham Canal are dry today except for a few patches here and there. It is the same with wetlands. Reports say that wetlands such as Pallikarainai Marsh, Pulicat Lake, Kattupalli Island, Madhavaram and Manali Jheels and the Adyar Estuary Creek have been encroached upon to expand urban settlements.

People now wait in queues for long hours in the hope of getting some water for their sustenance. It is alarming that this is just the beginning and is only going to get worse if we are not prudent about how we use water. Most of us are privileged enough to still get water in our homes but the day is not far when the effects of water scarcity are going to be felt by every household, poor or affluent.

The situation is so grave that it has drawn international attention with renowned actors, singers, and the sports fraternity, causing them to take up the mantle to spread awareness about the impending disaster. The illustrious Hollywood actor, Leonardo Di Caprio, also dedicated an entire Instagram post to the Chennai water crisis. In this situation of acute shortage of water, it is important that people are resourceful in the use of water to ensure equitable distribution of the remaining water so that the effects of the water crisis can be mitigated to some extent. Every small step in saving water such as closing taps while brushing, using a mug and a bucket to take a bath instead of using a shower, will go a long way in saving our water reserves.

It is time that people rise to the occasion and try to conserve water, or the day is not far when a drought like situation can arise in Chennai as well.

Aditya Shankar

12B



THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH

In today's world, garbage accumulation is becoming a rising problem. Ocean water is the largest victim of this pollution. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean. Marine debris is litter that ends up in oceans, seas, and other large bodies of water. The Patch, also known as the Pacific trash vortex, spans waters from the West Coast of North America to Japan. These areas of spinning debris are linked together by the North Pacific Subtropical Convergence Zone. The entire Great Pacific Garbage Patch is bounded by the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. An ocean gyre is a system of circular ocean currents formed by the Earth's wind patterns and the forces created by the rotation of the planet.

The debris in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch accumulates because much of it is not biodegradable. Many plastics, for instance, do not wear down; they simply break into tinier and tinier pieces. It was recently discovered that 70 percent of marine debris actually sinks to the bottom of the ocean. The trash vortex was discovered by a racing boat captain by the name of Charles Moore. On sailing from Hawaii to California, his crew came across millions of pieces of plastic that were surrounding the ship, in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. About 80 percent of the debris in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch comes from land-based activities in North America and Asia. Trash from the coast of North America takes about six years to reach the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, while trash from Japan and other Asian countries takes about a year. The marine debris blocks sunlight from reaching plankton and algae below, hence affecting the entire food web.

THE REVOLUTIONARY OCEAN CLEANUP MACHINE

Six years ago, the idea of a device that could collect the trillions of pieces of plastic floating in the ocean was proposed by 18-year old Boyan Slat. After years of work, it's now ready to take its first voyage.

It includes a massive black tube roughly the length of a football field. It will set sail for the Great Pacific Garbage Patch this summer, where it will begin collecting from the 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic brought there by ocean currents.

Cleaning up these tiny particles of plastic in the ocean could take nearly 80,000 years. Because of the volume of plastic spread through the water, and because it is constantly moving with currents, trying to chase it with nets would be pointless. Instead, Slat proposed using that movement as an advantage: With a barrier in the water, the swirling plastic could be collected more quickly.

Slat dropped out during his first year of university to pursue his idea and founded a nonprofit organization, 'The Ocean Cleanup' in 2013. The organization raised \$2.2 million in a crowdfunding campaign. The organization expects to bring 5,000 kilograms of plastic ashore per month with its first system. It is said that it can collect half of the plastic trash in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—around 40,000 metric tons—within five years.

The system uses a giant floating tube which forms a U-shaped barrier to stop the plastic floating on the ocean's surface. A strong nylon screen will catch some of plastic below the surface, and because it isn't a net, it won't catch marine life.

Not only is collecting existing waste part of the challenge, but also preventing the flow of trash into the ocean. To tackle the plastic pollution crisis, there is an urgent need to rethink the way we make use and reuse plastics. Segregation at source is necessary to combat this rising problem. Hence, we must play our part in saving this environment, because every small step counts.

Dams in India

Tehri Dam

Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand is the highest dam in India and 11th highest dam in the world. It is around 260.5 metre high and 592 metre long. It is part of the Tehri Dam & Hydro Power Project (the multi-purpose river valley project) taken up for construction on River Bhagirathi to tap its vast potential for irrigation and hydro-electric purposes.

Bhakra Nangal Dam

The Bhakra-Nangal Dam is the second tallest dam in Asia and located at the border of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. The Bhakra dam is built on the Sutlej River. It is the highest straight gravity dam in India with a height of about 207.26 meters. Bhakra Nangal Dam has a length of 518.25 meters and a width of 9.1 meters.

Hirakud Dam

Hirakud Dam is built across the Mahanadi River, about 15km from Sambalpur in the state of Orissa in India. The Hirakud Dam was built in 1957 and is one of the longest man-made dams in the world and one of the world's longest earthen dams. The length of the dam is about 26 km. Hirakud Dam is the first major multipurpose river valley project that started after India's Independence.

The Hirakud Dam is a composite structure of earth, concrete, and stonework, about 15 km north of Sambalpur. It has length of around 24 km, including dikes, and stands across the river Mahanadi. The dam length is about 4.8 km and stands between two hills- on the left side Lamdungri and on the right Chandili Dunguri.

Bhakra Nangal Dam



Hirakud Dam



Lost in the Abyss

The Lost City of Heracleion

Many cities have flourished and vanished before we could witness their marvel. Pompeii and Herculaneum are two such cities that have been the victims of Earth's fury. The cities saw their end due to the eruption of the magnificent Mount Vesuvius in Italy. The city of Heracleion is another example of a magnificent city that fell against the might of the water.

The city of Heracleion was rightly given the prefix 'lost' as the name had not been talked about for centuries. The city that was thought to have been founded around the 8th century BC, sank around the 8th century AD. The name had only appeared in a few texts and inscriptions and was almost considered a legend until the year 2000. Research began in 1996, 4 years after which the city was discovered by Franck Goddio off the coast of Egypt, near the Abu Qir Bay.

The city is officially known as Thonis- Heracleion. The archaeological material revealed that Thonis and Heracleion refer to the same city, but Thonis was coined by the Egyptians and Heracleion was coined by the Greeks.

The ruins that were found under the sea shocked archaeologists as they were immaculately preserved. The artifacts that were made from granite and diorite gave an insight into this lost city that was then one of the greatest port cities in the world. Thonis- Heracleion controlled almost all trade into Egypt and flourished until its submergence due to geographical and cataclysmic events.



Dwarka is one of the best-studied underwater sites in India and is considered as one of the four Dharmas- a sacred place of pilgrimage- in the Hindu religion. Sanskrit literature identifies Dwarka as the city once founded by Lord Krishna

Divya Rangarajan
12A

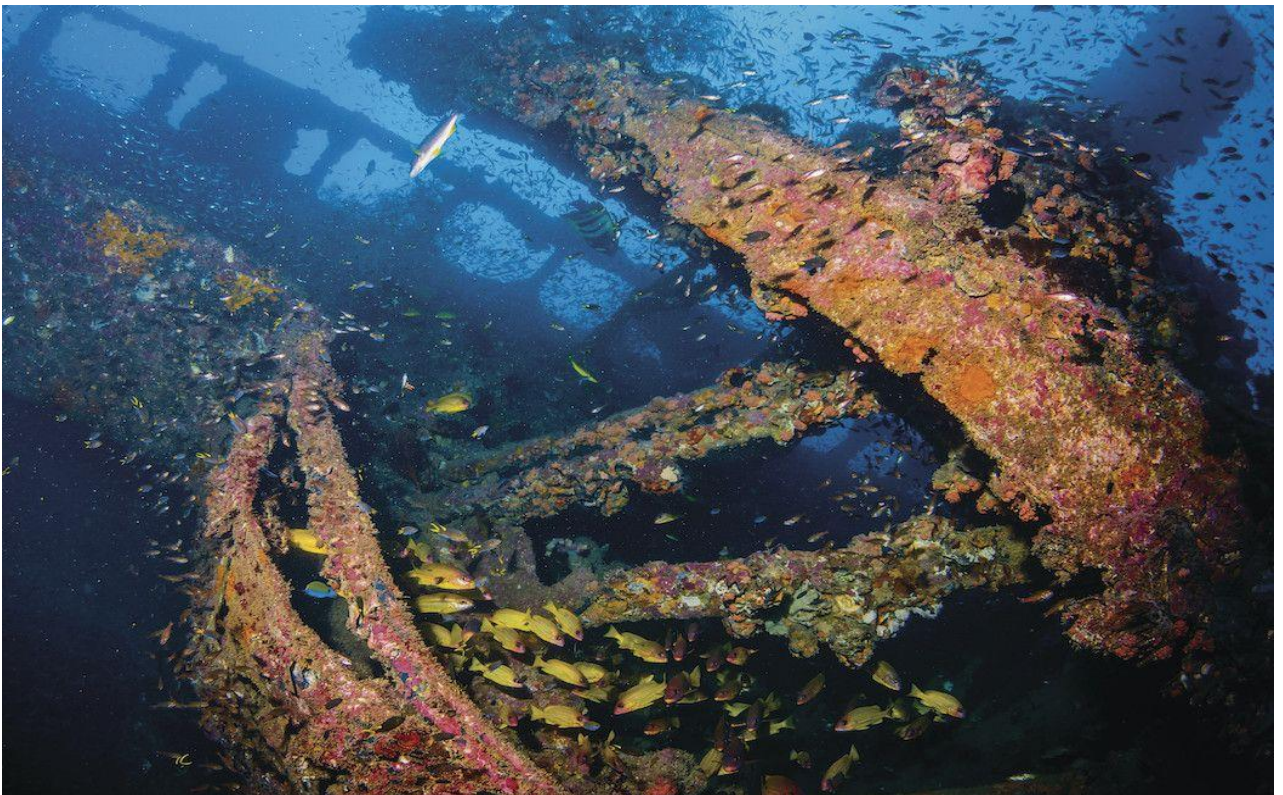
Sunken Ships

Flashes of thunder, wails of winds and claps of lightning, illuminate the night sky as a lone and desolate ship struggles to stay afloat on a tempestuous and turbulent sea. Her mast crashes against the violent waves as the sea endeavours to swallow her whole, her sails are torn apart by the sharp winds and the elements rise against her in fury. But a few brave souls fight against the swelling sea as they cling on to their life, but their cries of desperation are silenced by the screaming rains. The air is thick with mist and prayers, but the wind and sea offer no rescue as the ship sinks under. This was the fate met by countless ships as they travelled the oceans to distant lands but now, they serve as a diver's paradise: telling tales of history and teeming with marine life.

SS Yongala

The SS Yongala was a massive 350-foot luxury ship which was constructed in England in 1903. It was primarily used in Australia for ferrying passengers to Melbourne, Sydney, Fremantle, and Cairns. Reports suggest that it was the first ship to complete a 3000-mile journey at that time. The SS Yongala sank on its maiden voyage in 1911, as she made her way to Townsville from Mackay. It harboured around 122 people and an elite racehorse named Moonshine. On that fateful day, a telegram was received by the Maykay station warning of a possible storm and cyclone, but this news could not be sent to the Yongala as it did not have wireless equipment. The ship was last seen at Dent Island, as it proceeded towards rough weather, and was not seen again until after 40 years in its final resting place. Now the ship lies near the Great Barrier Reef and abounds in shoals, humpback whales, sharks and sea turtles and is considered one of the largest and most beautiful shipwrecks in Australia.

SS Yongala



Nuestra Senora de las Mercedes

The Nuestra Senora de las Mercedes was a Spanish warship that sank off the coast of Portugal in 1804. This was the site of the greatest recovery of underwater treasure in history which was called 'The Black Swan Project'. This gold was discovered by Odyssey Marine Exploration and is worth approximately 500 million US dollars today. It is now displayed in various exhibitions across Spain.

RMS Lusitania

The sinking of Lusitania holds great historical significance as it facilitated the entry of US into WWII. It was launched in 1906, as the fastest and largest ship (measuring at 787 feet), to compete against Germany in sea trade. The ship docked at Liverpool, England, and New York City and completed about 101 round trips in 7 years, before it was struck down by a German U boat in 1915 while returning from New York to Liverpool with 1,959 passengers and crew on board. With the threat of WWII looming, the British warned the Lusitania to take varying routes and change courses every few minutes but the ship's captain did not pay heed to these warnings and on May 7th, a torpedo damaged the pipes and engines of the ship and as a result of which it sunk in under 18 minutes carrying 173 tons of ammunition under the sea. About 1198 people drowned as well, including several US citizens.

A strange series of stones 40 feet below the surface of Lake Michigan, mysteriously arranged in a circle, was discovered. It is commonly called the 'Second Stonehenge'

Aakarsh Kankaria
12A

Water and Religion

Water is an essential part of many religious beliefs as it is believed to have the ability to cleanse a devotee of his sins or other pollutants.

Christianity: Water is an extremely important part of Christianity. Baptism is a practice that symbolises liberation from the oppression of sin that separates people from God. It is generally observed by immersing a devotee in water. It has its origins in the Old Testament of the Bible where Moses led his people across the Red Sea, after parting it. Another important significance of water also comes from the Bible, in the Book of John in the New Testament, where Jesus described himself as “living water”.

Hinduism: Water in Hinduism is believed to have spiritually cleansing powers. To Hindus, water is sacred, especially rivers, and there are seven sacred rivers, namely the Ganges, Yamuna, Godavari, Saraswati, Narmada, Sindhu and Kaveri. Pilgrimages are an essential part of this religion and many sacred pilgrimage sites are located on the banks of rivers, coasts and seashores. It is at these places that the “nectar of immortality” is believed to have fallen during a heavenly conflict.

Islam: In Islam water is important for cleansing and purifying. Some mosques have a courtyard with a pool of clear water in the centre, but in most mosques the ablutions are found outside the walls. Fountains symbolising purity are also sometimes found in mosques. In Islam, ritual purity (called *tahara*) is required before carrying out religious duties especially *salat* (worship).

Judaism: In Judaism, ritual washing is intended to restore or maintain a state of ritual purity and its origins can be found in the Torah. The story of Noah’s Ark and the Great Flood is also centred on water. The Red Sea is significant in Jewish history because its parting by Moses was a miraculous event at the beginning of the Exodus which enabled the Israelites to escape from the Egyptian army that was chasing them.

Zoroastrianism: The significance of water in Zoroastrianism is a combination of its purifying properties and its importance as a fundamental life element. Though water is used in purification rites and rituals, it is sacred and so must be kept from being polluted. The sanctity of water is very important to Zoroastrians. People must not contaminate a river or allow anyone else to. In Zoroastrianism the dead are not cremated, buried or immersed in water because fire, earth and water must be kept pure.

Ablution Pool

Dhruv Batra
12A



Practices vs Practicality: Ganesh Visarjan

Ganesh Chaturthi is a Hindu festival celebrating the birth of the Hindu God, Ganesha. The festival is commemorated with the purchase of idols that are traditionally immersed into the water on the last day of the festival. On this day, over ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION idols are immersed into water, in Maharashtra ALONE. This screams just one word to me: POLLUTION. Idols are typically made of non-biodegradable Plaster of Paris and are painted with toxic chemicals. This means that there is an addition of elements such as lead and mercury to the water, which are extremely harmful for the environment. Over the years, several creative and eco-friendly idols have been developed that can help conserve the environment. Substances such as clay and “multani mitti” are biodegradable and get dissolved soon after they are submerged. Two men from Pune, Ramesh Kher and Vivek Kamble, have created an idol using Alum! Yes, that’s right, the substance you learn about in chemistry for the purification of water is now used to make Ganesh Idols!

Another interesting invention is the Tree Ganesha by Dattadri Kothur. This idol is made with fertilizers and seeds mixed together and thus if this idol is watered instead of immersed, the statue fades away and it eventually grows into plants! Not only does this prevent pollution, but also plants trees. Another eco-friendly option is the Ganesha by Sprouts Environment Trust which is made of fish food and disintegrates into pieces inside water and can be consumed by fish. Finally, the fish in the sea can consume something other than plastic! The activated charcoal and clay Ganesha, one of the most easily available idols, have a cleansing effect on the water.

Today, water pollution has become a major issue and we must consciously try to use products that are not harmful to the environment. These creative inventions are the first step towards a sustainable environment and can make a very big difference in the long run.

Diksha Bhaiya

12A



Traditional Water Races and Sports

For most of history, the ocean has been the final frontier, a dangerous but critical force for one to master to be a successful state. Over time, water has become less of a foe and has instead become a tool of recreation, with water sports becoming increasingly popular.

Water sports can be traced back to the 1st century, with the invention of the snorkel by the Romans. The origins of surfing can be traced to Polynesian islanders, who used wooden boards to ride the currents of shallow waters.

Adam Libby
10C

Vallamkali in Kerala, India

A Snake boat race, known as Vallamkali is a traditional race held on the occasion of Onam in Kerala. It is a famous water sport and is one of the major attractions in 'God's Own Country'. It is a form of canoe racing, which uses paddled war canoes. Tourists flock from far and wide to witness this spectacular race. In Kerala, during an early 13th-century war between the feudal kingdoms of Kayamkulam and Chembakassery, King Devanarayana of Chembakassery commissioned the construction of a war boat named Chundan Vallam and he tasked a famous carpenter of the day with the responsibility of creating it. Hence, the technical method of creating these snake boats is hundreds of years old.

Nongchao in China

Nongchao, a sport involving swimming among the tides, emerged in the times of the Tang Dynasty and was as popularized during the rule of the Song Dynasty. The Qiantang river in Zhejiang was the venue for this ancient sport. The swimmers had to swim with flags in their hands and the winners received prizes in gold and silver.

Kyōtei in Japan

The Kyōtei is a hydroplane racing event, primarily held in Japan. It is one of Japan's four "Public Sports" and was introduced in Japan in April 1952, when the first race was held at Ōmura Kyōtei Stadium in Ōmura City, Nagasaki Prefecture. There are 24 Kyōtei stadiums in Japan, all of which refer to themselves as Boat Racecourses. Kyōtei races are conducted on man-made lakes with a 600-meter oval boat course. Six boats race three laps around the course (1,800 meters) and these races last for about two minutes.

Water skiing

Water skiing was invented in 1922 when Ralph Samuelson used a pair of boards as skis and a clothesline as a towrope on Lake Pepin in Lake City, Minnesota. He fabricated his own design out of lumber with bindings made of strips of leather. The ski rope was made from a long window sash cord. In 1941, Don Ibsen founded The Olympic Water Ski Club, the first of its kind in Seattle, WA. Water skiing remained an obscure activity for several years after 1922, until Samuelson performed water ski shows from Michigan to Florida. The American Water Ski Association formally acknowledged Samuelson in 1966 as the first recorded water skier in history.

Water Jousting

Water Jousting is a form of jousting where the adversaries, carrying a lance and protected only by a shield, stand on a platform on the stern of a boat. The boat is propelled by oarsmen or, in some cases, a motor may be used. The aim of the sport is to send the adversary into the water whilst maintaining one's own balance on the platform. Water Jousting dates back to the times of the Ancient Egyptians in 2780 – 2380BC, when it was practised only as a leisure activity. Evidence of jousting was subsequently found in Ancient Greece. The Greeks introduced the practice into Sicily where the Latins, great lovers of all kinds of spectacle, immediately adopted it. Indeed, there are countless signs of jousting in the Roman Empire, especially during Naumachia (Naval combat). Water jousting is now being practised principally in France, Switzerland and Germany.

Aquaplaning

Aquaplaning is a surface water sport which involves riding a board (aquaplane) over the surface of a waterbody towed behind a motorboat. Developed in the early 20th century, aquaplaning gained momentum and was popularized for several decades but was soon superseded by the development of similar sports such as water skiing in the 1920s and knee boarding in the 1950s. From the year 1935, a 44-mile aquaplane race held between Santa Catalina Island and Hermosa Beach, California attracted competitors from around the world.

Dragon Boat Racing in China

Dragon Boat Racing is an ancient and religious tradition, and thus, the modern competitive aspect is but a small part of this complex dragon boat culture. The use of dragon boats for racing is believed to have originated in southern central China more than 2500 years ago, in Dongting Lake and along the banks of the Chang Jiang (now called the Yangtze) during the same era when the games of Ancient Greece were being established at Olympia. Dragon boat racing has been practiced for annual water rituals and festival celebrations, and for the traditional veneration of the Chinese dragon water deity. The celebration was an important part of the ancient Chinese agricultural society, celebrating the summer rice planting. Dragon boat racing is historically held in the Chinese subcontinent.

Aquaplaning

Dragon Boat Race



Namya Nichani
10A

Although most people only think of competitive swimming when they hear 'water sports', swimming just scratches the surface. Diving, synchronized swimming, water polo, rowing, and surfing are all Olympic sports, and there are hundreds of others like canoeing, jet skiing, snorkeling and scuba diving. All the different types of fishing and boating fall under categories of water sports as well. Underwater hockey is a sport that is now prevalent in UK, Canada, Africa, and the Philippines. Triathlons, which take place all over the world, involve open sea swims, cycling, and running.

Water sports have also become a very profitable business for many, especially in tourist destinations. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Goa all have booming business for water sports as it is the primary recreational activity in these areas. But the problem that comes with this is the risk involved in taking part in water sports. Accidents are extremely common and can be fatal if proper precautions are not taken.

Like all other sports, these are beneficial for our physical and mental health. Water sports have been proved to improve bone density, reduce the risk of diabetes and heart disease, and improve mental health. Rheumatoid arthritis patients usually choose water aerobics as a form of exercise as the stress on their joints is minimal. Hydrotherapy is a form of treatment used by these patients.

Water sports enable people to explore the unexplored, connect with nature, and have fun in the process. Water sports have gained popularity in the past 10 years and are resulting in a wave of new tournaments and competitions and an increased interest in them too.

Underwater Hockey



The Mariana Trench is the deepest part of the Earth's oceans. Estimates vary, but at its depths, it's 6.8 miles deep, and it's five times longer than the Grand Canyon. Canadian director James Cameron reached the bottom of the trench in the submersible vessel Deepsea Challenger.

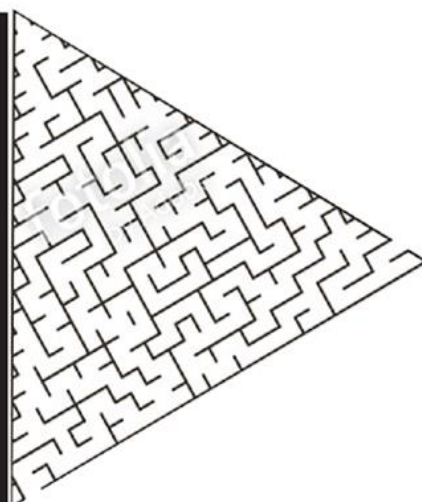
Raul Sharma
10B

TONGUE TWISTER

WHILE WE WERE WALKING
WE WERE WATCHING
WINDOW WASHERS
WASH WASHINGTON'S WINDOWS
WITH WARM WASHING WATER

Find the words given on the ship

H	S	I	F	E	N	T	N	S	O	T	T	N	G
R	I	E	L	I	K	A	H	O	F	H	I	C	N
N	B	A	T	H	N	P	A	H	O	R	O	R	I
A	O	A	M	S	W	A	M	P	R	O	C	I	M
A	N	I	N	H	D	I	S	V	S	P	L	R	M
E	G	M	T	S	Y	E	M	A	T	N	O	E	I
N	A	E	R	A	H	A	N	P	C	A	U	V	W
A	I	P	Y	P	S	I	A	I	S	R	D	I	S
P	A	R	O	S	K	N	P	W	D	S	I	R	T
B	E	A	A	N	E	N	E	L	A	K	E	T	R
T	S	E	A	I	D	R	I	D	O	W	S	H	Y
A	A	H	H	O	N	C	I	R	N	A	N	T	A
O	Y	I	W	A	T	E	R	L	D	O	S	B	E
B	C	T	D	A	T	A	T	I	A	S	C	A	O



WORDS TO FIND

TAP RAIN CLOUD LAKE CONDENSATION RIVER
SACRITY SEA SWAMP BOAT SWIMMING BATH
WATER SHIP FISH DRINK GEYSER POND

F
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