



Awesome Oceans



Making inferences is figuring out what is happening in a story from clues the author provides.

Holly's class had been studying world geography for three weeks. However, it was just today that they realized that all four oceans had been visited by various class members. Tori, Kaley, Johnny, and Natalie had each seen one or more of the oceans. Since all of the students lived in Missouri, it was not easy for any of them to travel to a coast.



Holly had never seen an ocean. Someday, though, she wanted to go surfing in one of the three great oceans—the Pacific, the Atlantic, or the Indian. She was afraid the smaller ocean, the Arctic, would be too cold for surfing.

To help the class learn about the world's oceans, Mrs. Steele, the geography teacher, decided to make up a game. She told the four students who had visited one of the oceans to write clues about it on the board. The other students would try to guess which ocean the clues described.

Tori went first. The ocean she had seen was the second largest ocean. It covers about 29,630,000 square miles. Europe and Africa are on its eastern side. However, she had seen it when she was on the east coast of South America. Her dad flies over it when he travels from New York to France for work.

Kaley had seen a very cold ocean. It is the smallest ocean at 5,426,000 square miles. This ocean is located at the top of the world. Kaley and her parents had sailed on this ocean when they visited Canada. Even in the summer, there are big floating ice pieces called floes.

Johnny and Natalie had both seen the largest and deepest ocean in the world. This ocean consists of 60,045,000 square miles. It is so big that it covers about one-third of Earth's surface! Johnny swam and body surfed in it when he went to California last summer to visit his cousins. Natalie used to play in its waves all the time during the two years she and her family lived in Hong Kong. This was the one ocean Holly really wanted to see.

Only Natalie had seen the remaining ocean. This ocean is smaller than the Atlantic by about 3,167,000 square miles. Asia is on the north of this body of water, and Australia and the East Indies lie on the east. Natalie had body surfed in this ocean when she and her family lived in South Africa. Holly decided that one good thing about moving was living in and learning about so many cool places. The other good thing was having so many friends. Natalie had friends all over the world. She was always receiving letters from a lot of interesting places, and she always wrote back.

After all the clues had been given, Mrs. Steele gave each student a map. They were to write the name of each student on the ocean each one had visited. Holly studied her map and the clues on the board. She figured out the answers right away.