

# Careers in Science

Many people who love the ocean and coral reefs make it part of their jobs. Here are some ocean-related careers your students might find interesting.

**Oceanographer:** These scientists study the physical features of the ocean—the currents, waves, tides and the sea floor. Many do their jobs at sea, taking measurements and collecting data from research vessels that travel all over the world. Oceanographers study math, chemistry and physics.

**Marine Biologist:** These scientists study the animals and plants that live in the ocean. Some marine biologists study just one type of animal, trying to learn everything possible about where it lives and how it survives. Others study an entire ecosystem to understand how a variety of plants and animals get along in their habitat and with each other. Marine biologists study biology, chemistry, math and physics.

**Environmental Leader:** Environmental leaders work to protect ocean animals and habitats. Some make speeches and write articles to educate the public about environmental problems. Others raise money that can be used to buy and conserve special coastal areas or to fund environmental research. Environmental leaders can be scientists, writers or business people.

**Coastal Zone Manager:** These are planners and law-makers who work to protect the coast and the ocean from human impacts like construction and water pollution. Some work for the United States government in Washington, DC, making decisions that affect the whole country. Others work for states or for cities and towns. They can be scientists, writers or business people.

**Professional Diver:** There are many different and unusual jobs for professional scuba divers. They may help salvage shipwrecks, inspect underwater supports for bridges or serve as underwater guides for tourists on the reef. Professional divers need special training and often work under dangerous conditions.

**Aquarium Staff:** Aquariums employ scientists to care for their animals, artists to design their exhibits, teachers to present school programs, and business people to raise money and pay the bills. Many aquariums have volunteer programs to give students a chance to help out with some of these jobs.

## Activity

---

Invite a parent or friend with an ocean-related career to speak to the class about his/her job. Some questions students might ask: What do you do on a typical day? What are the best parts of your job? Are there any parts you do not like? What did you study in school to prepare you for this job?