

# Deep Sea Explorers

For thousands of years, people have been in awe about the mysteries of the world's oceans. Read on to find out about three explorers and their missions to discover what lies beneath the waves.



## Jacques Cousteau

Jacques-Yves Cousteau was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1910 in France. He was a famous **oceanographer**.

After breaking both of his arms in an accident, Jacques had to leave the French naval academy. While he was recovering, Jacques swam in the Mediterranean Sea every day. He wore a pair of swimming goggles that his friend had given to him. Many people think that this is when Jacques first fell in love with the ocean.

Jacques was inspired by the mysteries of the ocean and he wanted to show people things that they had never seen before. He did this by publishing a number of books, films and documentaries which showed the things that he had discovered during his explorations.



In the 1940s, Jacques helped to improve the design of the aqualung. This improvement led to the invention of modern-day diving equipment.

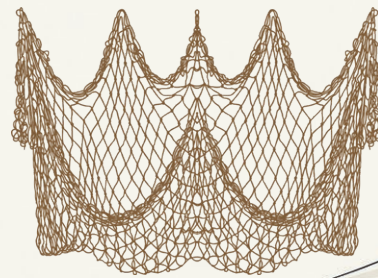
In 1985, Jacques was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This is an award given to people who have contributed significantly to the national interests of the United States of America.



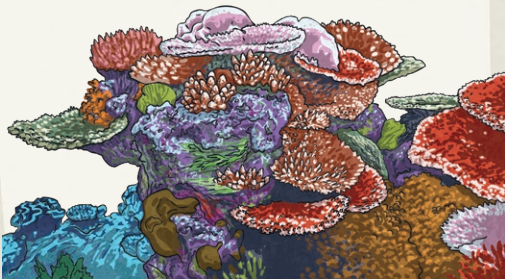
### Sylvia Earle

Sylvia Alice Earle was born in New Jersey, USA, on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 1935. She is a famous marine biologist who is well known for her work on marine **conservation**.

Sylvia has written many books and taken part in a number of talks and documentaries about marine wildlife. These encourage people to think about the effects that overfishing and pollution have on the world's oceans.



In 1998, a popular magazine recognised Sylvia's work on marine conservation by awarding her with the title of Hero for the Planet. A year later, she became an explorer in residence for a worldwide company; a job title that she still holds today.



Sylvia has started a marine conservation organisation which aims to protect 30% of the world's oceans by the year 2030. The plan is to do this by creating areas called 'hope spots' where marine wildlife is protected. By 2018, 94 hope spots had already been created around the world.





### Robert Ballard

Robert Duane Ballard was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1942 in the USA. He is a retired United States navy officer and an oceanography teacher. In addition, he is also a marine **archaeologist** and he finds lost shipwrecks.

In 1985, Robert found the lost wreckage of the RMS Titanic. The United States navy agreed to pay for the mission if Robert could first find two of their missing submarines.

Robert found the remains of the two missing submarines and worked with his team to discover how they had broken apart in the deep water. Incredibly, they were able to use this information to help them to find the sunken RMS Titanic.

During his life, Robert has found several other missing shipwrecks at the bottom of the world's oceans. Most recently, he has announced that he plans to search for the remains of Amelia Earhart's plane. She was the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean and mysteriously disappeared while attempting to fly around the world.

### Glossary

**archaeologist:** A person who studies human history by looking at artefacts and remains.

**conservation:** Protection of the natural environment and wildlife.

**oceanographer:** A scientist who studies anything relating to the ocean.

# Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they occurred.

- ☐ Jacques Cousteau helped to improve the design of the aqualung.
- ☐ 94 hope spots had been created around the world.
- ☐ Sylvia was born.
- ☐ Jacques Cousteau was born.

2. Which of these has not been one of Robert Ballard's jobs. Tick one.

- ☐ oceanography teacher
- ☐ archaeology teacher
- ☐ marine archaeologist
- ☐ United States navy officer

3. Draw four lines to match each achievement to the explorer who achieved it. Some explorers may have more than one achievement.

discovered the wreckage of the RMS Titanic	•	Jacques Cousteau	•
was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom	•	Sylvia Earle	•
helped to improve the design of the aqualung	•	Robert Ballard	•
started an organisation to protect the oceans	•		

4. What are hope spots? Tick one.

- ☐ areas of conservation which will start being built in 2030
- ☐ areas where marine wildlife is protected
- ☐ areas of land or sea where all wildlife is protected
- ☐ areas where people can learn about the effects of overfishing

5. Look at the section on **Jacques Cousteau**.

Find and copy one word which means 'helped towards'.

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6. What did Robert Ballard and his team use to help them to find the wreckage of the RMS Titanic?

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7. Do you think that Sylvia Earle deserves the title of **Hero for the Planet**? Explain your answer.

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8. Imagine that the text has been taken from a book called Underwater Explorers. In 20 words or fewer, write a blurb for the book.

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