

# Ch. 18 - The Bounding Main

**Directions:** Read Ch.18 from the book *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson and then answer the questions below.

**Analogy 1:** "If all the ice in Antarctica melted, sea level would rise 200 feet. If all the water in the atmosphere fell as rain, the oceans would deepen by an inch."

**Analogy 2:** "It's as if our firsthand experience of the surface world were based on the work of five guys exploring on garden tractors after dark."

**Analogy 3:** "For every pound of shrimp harvested, about four pounds of fish... are destroyed."

**Statement to Consider:** "We have better maps of Mars than we have of our own oceans."

1. What are the unique properties of water? Why are we looking for water on other planets?
2. Why shouldn't you drink seawater?
3. Where is most of the water of the world located?
4. Why should our world be called "Water" instead of "Earth"?
5. Why do we know so little about the oceans?
6. What were some of the earliest deep ocean exploration vessels? The most recent?
7. Why is it so much harder to build a deep ocean exploration vessel than a space exploration vessel? What are some difficulties involved in each?
8. Are the depths and floor of the ocean "lifeless," flat and uninteresting?
9. Why do you think we seem to be more interested in space exploration than ocean exploration?
10. Why is ocean exploration so difficult?
11. Where is there a world independent of the sun?
12. What do we know about life beneath the seas?
13. How do scientists study life beneath the surface?
14. Where does most life in the sea occur? Why?
15. Why is knowledge of the ocean life important to fishermen?

