NCERT Archive

SOLUTIONS BOOK

CLASS 6

Social Science · Exploring Society

CHAPTER 2

Oceans and Continents

Complete Questions and Activities Solutions

In-text Questions

Questions and Activities

Contents

Class 6 Social Science · Exploring Society: India and Beyond · Chapter 2 — Oceans and Continents

1.1 **In-text Questions**
6 questions · Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6 — 3

1.2 **Questions and Activities**
4 questions · Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 — 12

Every question is followed by its answer. Question numbers above are clickable and the PDF bookmarks panel lets you jump to any exercise set or question. Figures are reproduced from the NCERT textbook (© NCERT) for educational use.

NCERT ARCHIVE

1.1

CLASS 6 SOCIAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 2

In-text Questions

Solutions · 6 questions

Directions (Questions 1–6): These are the questions that appear inside the chapter (The Big Questions, Let’s Explore and Think About It), numbered in the order in which they appear. Many are open-ended; model answers based on the chapter are given, and you may add examples from your own surroundings.

QUESTION 1 *The Big Questions · p. 1*

What are oceans and continents? What are their names and their distribution?

ANSWER

Oceans are the largest water bodies on the Earth and continents are its large continuous expanses of land. There are five oceans and, in the most widely used count, seven continents; both are spread unequally over the globe.

a What oceans and continents are

Term	Meaning	Share of the Earth’s surface
Ocean	The largest water bodies on the globe; their smaller extensions are called sea, bay, gulf, etc.	Water: almost three-fourths
Continent	A large continuous expanse of land (a large body of land is called a landmass)	Land: a little over one-fourth

NCERT ARCHIVE

b Their names

Rank	Ocean	Size
1	Pacific Ocean	Largest of all
2	Atlantic Ocean	Second largest
3	Indian Ocean	Third largest
4	Southern (or Antarctic) Ocean	Fourth largest
5	Arctic Ocean	Smallest

- **Seven continents** (the most widely used count): Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America.
- Continents can be counted in other ways too (from four to seven), for example North and South America together as one ‘America’, or Europe and Asia together as ‘Eurasia’.

c Their distribution

- Oceans and continents are not distributed equally between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres; the Northern Hemisphere has more land than the Southern Hemisphere.
- The five oceans are not really separate: the lines dividing them on the map are only conventions, and seawater flows across them.

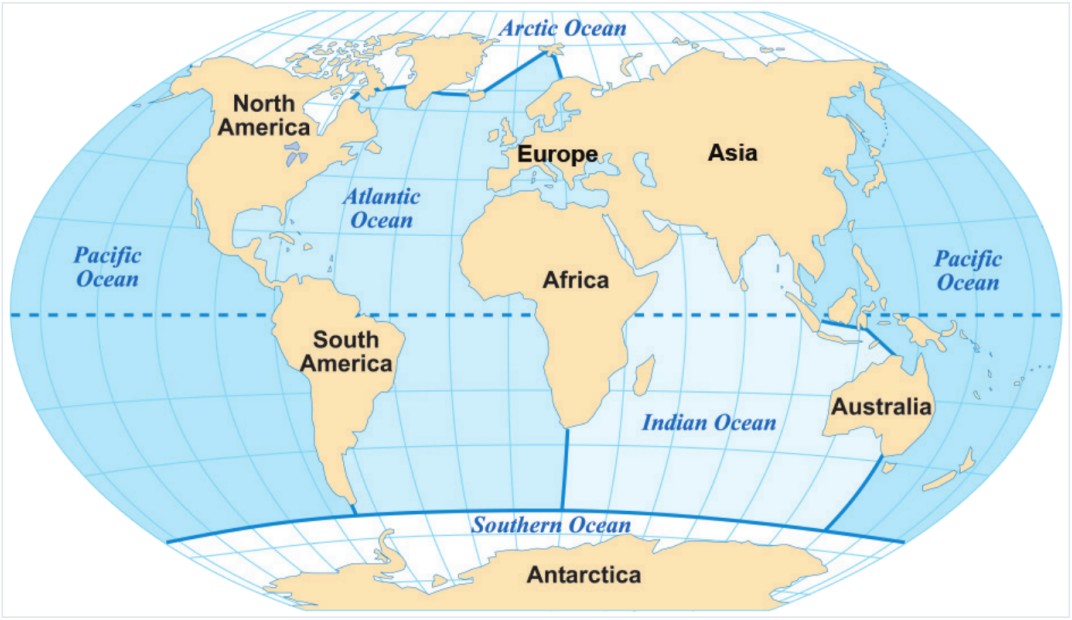


Fig. 2.3. A world map showing the five oceans, their conventional boundaries, and the continents

Therefore, the Earth has five connected oceans and seven (commonly counted) continents, and the Northern Hemisphere holds more land than the Southern.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 2 *The Big Questions · p. 1*

In what ways do oceans and continents impact life on Earth, including human life?

ANSWER

Oceans and continents play a vital role in shaping the climate of the Earth. They affect all plants and animals and therefore human life too, in our history, our culture and our daily lives.

a Climate and rain

- Oceans send rain to the continents as part of the Earth's water cycle. The monsoon rains India expects every summer originate in the ocean.
- Without oceans there would be no rainfall and the Earth would be a desert; so oceans play a crucial role in regulating the climate and sustaining life.

b Oxygen and marine life

- More than half of the world's oxygen is produced by the oceans' flora, which is why they are called 'the planet's lungs'.
- Oceans support marine flora (algae and seaweeds) and fauna (colourful fish, dolphins, whales and deep-sea creatures). Continents are the large land areas on which land plants, animals and people live.

c Human life and culture

- From early times people have used oceans and seas to migrate to other regions, to trade, to conduct military campaigns and as a source of food through fishing.
- Oceans have nourished the cultures of coastal people: they have tales and legends about the sea, sea gods and goddesses, sea monsters and treasures from the sea. The Indian Navy's motto invokes Varuṇa, the Vedic deity of the oceans.

d Dangers from the ocean

- Oceans give rise to storms, such as cyclones, which can cause widespread damage to coastal regions.
- A tsunami is a huge, powerful wave generally caused by a strong earthquake or volcanic eruption at the bottom of the ocean; it can travel thousands of kilometres and submerge coastal areas.

NCERT ARCHIVE

- On 26 December 2004, a tsunami caused by an earthquake in Indonesia struck India and 13 other countries around the Indian Ocean. More than two lakh people lost their lives; the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala were severely affected.



Fig. 2.4. Map of India with the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and India's two major groups of islands

e Protecting life and the oceans

- Many countries, including India, contribute to the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System, an early warning system that helps protect lives and property. India's National Disaster Management Authority deals with disasters.
- Human activity pollutes the oceans (several million tonnes of plastic waste every year) and overfishing causes a decline of marine life. Protecting the oceans is our collective responsibility; 8 June is World Oceans Day.

Therefore, oceans and continents shape climate, sustain life, support human activities and culture, and also bring dangers, so they need our care.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 3 *Let's Explore · p. 3*

→ What are the circular lines in each map called? And do you know what the lines radiating out of the two poles are called? (Hint: you studied them in the previous chapter, but here they are presented differently.)
→ Which hemisphere holds more water?
→ What do you think could be the approximate proportion of water to land in the Northern Hemisphere? And in the Southern Hemisphere? Discuss in groups.
→ Are all the oceans connected with one another, or are there separations between them?

ANSWER

Fig. 2.2 shows the Earth as seen from above the North Pole and from above the South Pole. The blue areas are oceans with their smaller extensions (sea, bay, gulf).

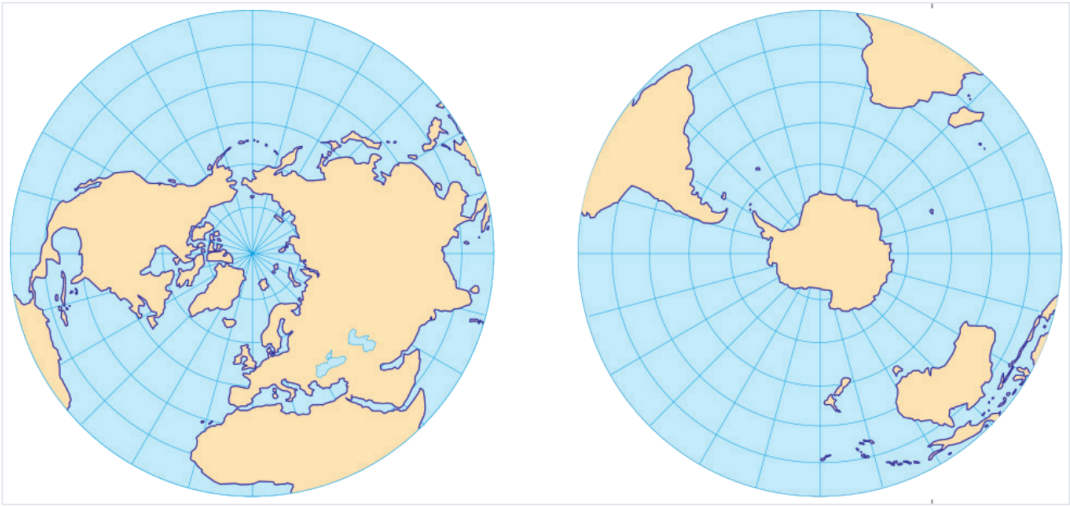


Fig. 2.2. Maps of the Earth as seen from above the North Pole (left) and above the South Pole (right).

a Circular lines and radiating lines

- The circular lines in each map are the **parallels of latitude**.
- The lines radiating out of the two poles are the **meridians of longitude**.

b Which hemisphere holds more water?

- The **Southern Hemisphere**. The map from above the South Pole is mostly blue, with Antarctica at the centre and only parts of other continents at the edges, while the map from above the North Pole shows much more land.

NCERT ARCHIVE

c Approximate proportion of water to land

Hemisphere	Water : Land (approx.)	In words
Northern Hemisphere	60 : 40	About three-fifths water
Southern Hemisphere	80 : 20	About four-fifths water

These are approximate estimates read from the maps; any close estimate with more water in the Southern Hemisphere is acceptable.

d Are all the oceans connected?

- Yes. The oceans are connected. The lines that divide them on the map are conventions; the natural world does not follow such boundaries. Seawater constantly flows across different oceans and many plant and animal species are found in more than one ocean.

Therefore, the Southern Hemisphere has more water, and all the oceans form one connected body of water.

QUESTION 4 *Think About It · p. 5*

◈ If there is such abundance of water on the planet, why is there so much talk of ‘water scarcity’ or a ‘water crisis’?
◈ What ways of saving water are you aware of? Which ones have you seen practised at home, at your school, and in your village, town or city?

ANSWER

Although water covers almost three-fourths of the Earth, most of it is not available for our use. Hence we must use the fresh water we have with care.

a Why is there talk of water scarcity?

- The oceans hold most of the water on the planet, but seawater is salty and unfit for consumption by most land animals, including humans.
- Freshwater makes up a very small proportion of the planet’s water; it is found in glaciers, rivers, lakes, in the atmosphere and underground (groundwater), so only a part of it is easy to reach.
- Growing demand, wastage and pollution, and the uneven availability of fresh water from place to place, make it scarce where people need it.

NCERT ARCHIVE

b Ways of saving water

Where	Ways of saving water
At home	Close taps when not in use; repair leaking taps and pipes; reuse water (for example, water used for washing vegetables) to water plants
At school	Use tap water carefully; report leaking taps; collect rainwater
Village, town or city	Rainwater harvesting; rejuvenating ponds and tanks; avoiding wasteful use of water

This part is open-ended; add examples you have seen in your own surroundings.

Therefore, fresh water is scarce because only a small part of the Earth's water is fresh and usable, so we must save and reuse it.

QUESTION 5 *Let's Explore · p. 6*

Locate the five oceans and, in the table below, mark the hemisphere or hemispheres they belong to.

ANSWER

In Fig. 2.3 the dashed line is the Equator. An ocean lying on one side of it belongs to one hemisphere; an ocean that crosses it belongs to both.

	Northern Hemisphere	Southern Hemisphere
Pacific Ocean	✓	✓
Atlantic Ocean	✓	✓
Indian Ocean	✓	✓
Southern Ocean		✓
Arctic Ocean	✓	

a Reading the map

- The **Pacific**, **Atlantic** and **Indian** Oceans cross the Equator, so they lie in both hemispheres. Most of the Indian Ocean lies in the Southern Hemisphere, while parts such as the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal lie north of the Equator.
- The **Southern Ocean** lies around Antarctica, in the Southern Hemisphere only; the **Arctic Ocean** lies around the North Pole, in the Northern Hemisphere only.

NCERT ARCHIVE

Therefore, the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans lie in both hemispheres, the Southern Ocean in the Southern and the Arctic Ocean in the Northern Hemisphere.

QUESTION 6 *Let's Explore · p. 10*

→ Counting the numbers of squares, name the largest continent and the smallest.
→ Which one is larger — North America or South America? Africa or North America? Antarctica or Australia?
→ Re-colour the diagram by having a single colour for Europe and Asia and rename the result as 'Eurasia'. Compare its size with South America's.
→ Write down the list of continents from the smallest to the largest.

ANSWER

Each square of the diagram stands for the same area, so the number of squares shows the relative size of each continent.

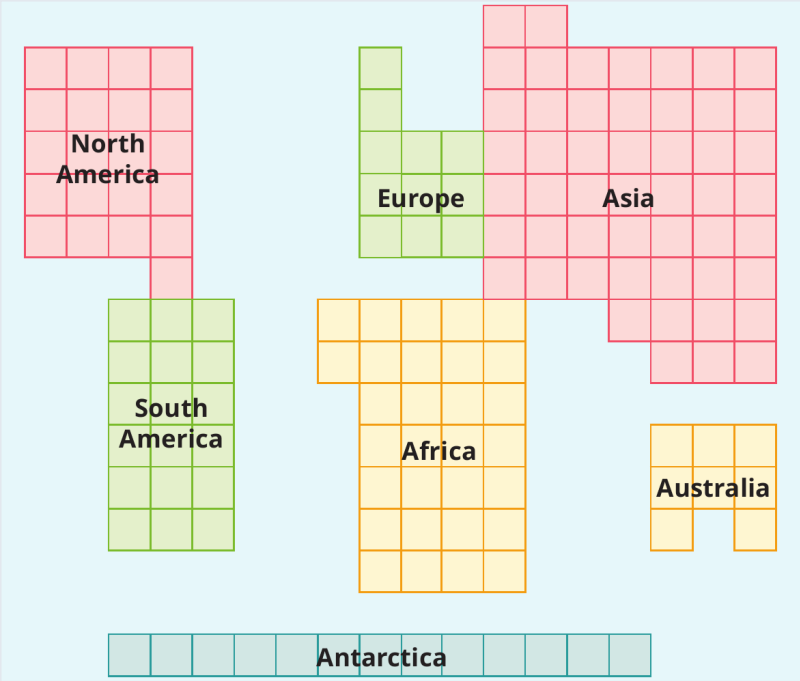


Diagram of the relative sizes of the seven continents (it does not show their actual shapes)

NCERT ARCHIVE

Continent	Number of squares	Rank (1 = largest)
Asia	**51**	**1**
Africa	**30**	**2**
North America	**21**	**3**
South America	**18**	**4**
Antarctica	**13**	**5**
Europe	**11**	**6**
Australia	**8**	**7**

a Largest and smallest

- The largest continent is **Asia** (51 squares) and the smallest is **Australia** (8 squares).

b Which is larger?

- **North America** (21 squares) is larger than South America (18 squares).
- **Africa** (30 squares) is larger than North America (21 squares).
- **Antarctica** (13 squares) is larger than Australia (8 squares).

c Eurasia compared with South America

- Europe (11 squares) and Asia (51 squares) together make Eurasia: 11 + 51 = 62 squares. South America has 18 squares, so Eurasia is more than three times as large as South America (62 ÷ 18 is about 3.4).

d Continents from the smallest to the largest

Order	Continent	Squares
1 (smallest)	Australia	**8**
2	Europe	**11**
3	Antarctica	**13**
4	South America	**18**
5	North America	**21**
6	Africa	**30**
7 (largest)	Asia	**51**

Therefore, in increasing order of size: Australia, Europe, Antarctica, South America, North America, Africa, Asia.

NCERT ARCHIVE

1.2

CLASS 6 SOCIAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 2

Questions and Activities

Solutions · 4 questions

Directions (Questions 1–4): These are the Questions, activities and projects at the end of the chapter (page 13). Answer each in your own words using the points given.

QUESTION 1 *Questions, activities and projects · p. 13*

Explain the following terms:
(a) Continent
(b) Ocean
(c) Island

ANSWER

A continent is a large expanse of land, an ocean is a very large body of water, and an island is a small piece of land surrounded by water.

a Continent

- A large body of land is called a landmass, and a large continuous expanse of land is called a **continent**.
- Continents can be counted in several ways (from four to seven); the most widely used list has seven: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America.

b Ocean

- The largest water bodies on the globe are called **oceans**. Together with their smaller extensions (sea, bay, gulf) they cover almost three-fourths of the Earth’s surface.
- There are five oceans: the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern (or Antarctic) Oceans. They are connected with one another.

c Island

- Some smaller pieces of land are left out of the continents; surrounded by water on all sides, they are called **islands**.

NCERT ARCHIVE

- Continents are also surrounded by water, but because they are so large, they are not considered islands.
- There are lakhs of islands of different sizes. Greenland is the largest island in the world; India has more than 1,300 small islands, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep Islands.

Therefore, a continent is a large continuous expanse of land, an ocean a vast water body, and an island a small landmass surrounded by water.

QUESTION 2 *Questions, activities and projects · p. 13*

Let us draw – Without looking at the maps in this chapter, draw the continents free hand on a sheet of paper and colour them. Then compare your drawing with the map of oceans and continents in the chapter.

ANSWER

This is a drawing activity. Draw the continents from memory, colour each one, and then compare your drawing with Fig. 2.3 using the checklist below.

a Steps

- Take a sheet of paper and, without looking at any map, draw the seven continents free hand.
- Colour each continent differently.
- Compare your drawing with the map of oceans and continents (Fig. 2.3) and correct the differences.

NCERT ARCHIVE

b Checklist for comparison

What to check	What the map shows
Number of continents	Seven: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America
Europe and Asia	Europe and Asia form a single landmass (Eurasia)
Africa	Lies on the western side of the Indian Ocean
Australia	Lies on the eastern side of the Indian Ocean
North and South America	Two continents joined together, with the Atlantic Ocean between them and Europe and Africa
Antarctica	Lies at the bottom of the map, around the South Pole
Relative sizes	Asia is the largest continent and Australia the smallest

Therefore, a correct drawing shows seven continents with their right positions and relative sizes.

QUESTION 3 *Questions, activities and projects · p. 13*

Let us do – On the outline map of the world given below, label all the continents and oceans.

ANSWER

The map below shows all the continents and oceans labelled; mark the same names at the same places on the outline map.

NCERT ARCHIVE

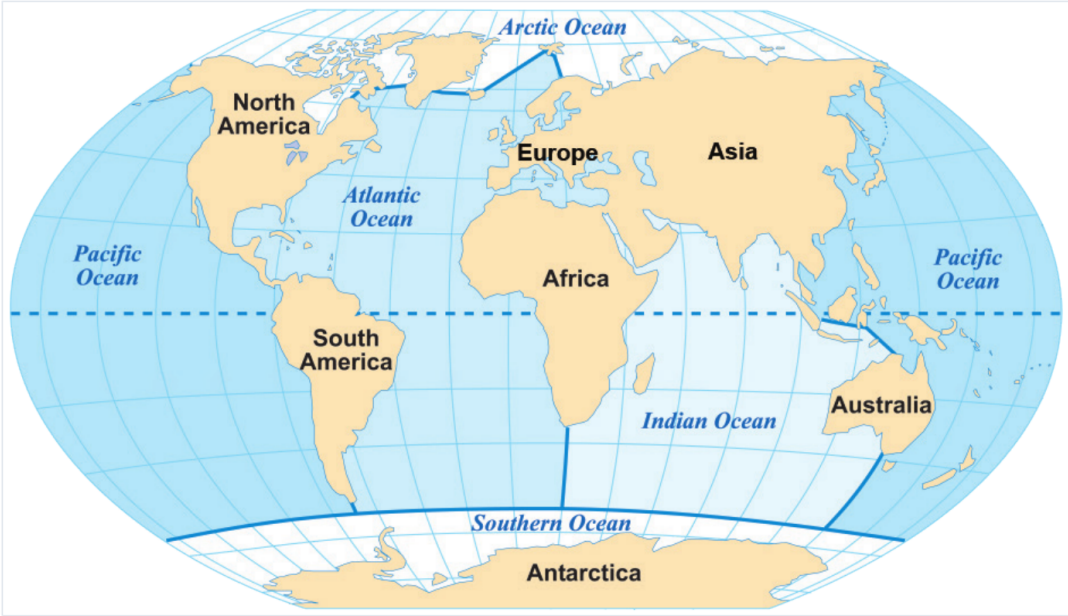


Fig. 2.3. A world map showing the five oceans, their conventional boundaries, and the continents

Name	Type	Where to label it
Asia	Continent	Largest landmass, north of the Indian Ocean
Africa	Continent	West of the Indian Ocean
Europe	Continent	North-west of Asia, north of Africa
North America	Continent	North-west of the map
South America	Continent	South of North America
Australia	Continent	East of the Indian Ocean
Antarctica	Continent	At the bottom, around the South Pole
Pacific Ocean	Ocean	Largest ocean; appears at both edges of the map
Atlantic Ocean	Ocean	Between the Americas and Europe and Africa
Indian Ocean	Ocean	South of Asia, between Africa and Australia
Southern Ocean	Ocean	Around Antarctica
Arctic Ocean	Ocean	Around the North Pole, north of Asia, Europe and North America

Therefore, seven continents and five oceans are to be labelled on the map.

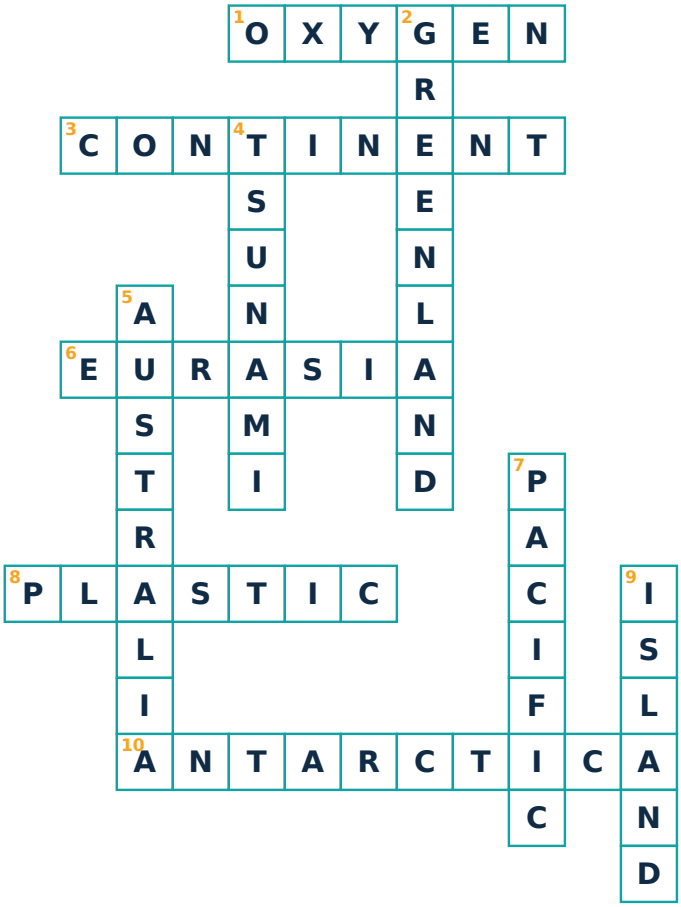
NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 4 *Questions, activities and projects · p. 14*

Solve this crossword

ANSWER

Each answer comes from the chapter. The completed crossword is shown below, followed by the clues with their answers.



Completed crossword (Question 4)

a Across

No.	Clue	Answer
1	Abundantly produced by the oceans	OXYGEN
3	A large expanse of landmass	CONTINENT
6	A large continent of which India is a part	EURASIA
8	A major source of pollution of the oceans	PLASTIC
10	The coldest continent	ANTARCTICA

NCERT ARCHIVE

b Down

No.	Clue	Answer
2	The largest island on Earth	GREENLAND
4	A huge destructive wave from the ocean	TSUNAMI
5	The smallest continent	AUSTRALIA
7	The largest body of water on the Earth	PACIFIC
9	A landmass (but not a continent) surrounded by the sea or ocean	ISLAND

Therefore, the answers are Oxygen, Continent, Eurasia, Plastic and Antarctica (across) and Greenland, Tsunami, Australia, Pacific and Island (down).

NCERT ARCHIVE