



Why Is Seawater Salty?

by Ellen Lawrence

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editor: Jessica Rudolph

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Emma Randall

Photo Researcher: Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Lawrence, Ellen, 1967– author.

Title: Why is seawater salty? / by Ellen Lawrence.

Description: New York, New York : Bearport Publishing, [2016] | Series: Drip, drip, drop: Earth's water | Audience: Ages 6–10. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015040326 (print) | LCCN 2015041634 (ebook) | ISBN 9781943553228 (library binding) | ISBN 9781943553563 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Seawater—Composition—Juvenile literature. | Salt—Juvenile literature. | Salt industry and trade—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC GC121.2 .L39 2016 (print) | LCC GC121.2 (ebook) | DDC 551.46/5—dc23

LC record available at <http://lccn.loc.gov/2015040326>

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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Salty Seawater

It's a sunny day at the beach, and you're swimming in the ocean.

You accidentally swallow a mouthful of salty seawater. Yuck!

The water that comes out of a faucet doesn't taste salty.

If you catch raindrops on your tongue, they don't taste like salt.

So what makes seawater so salty?



Earth from space



ocean

About
70 percent of
Earth's surface
is covered by
oceans.

What Makes the Ocean Salty?

Seawater is salty because it contains tiny **particles** of salt.

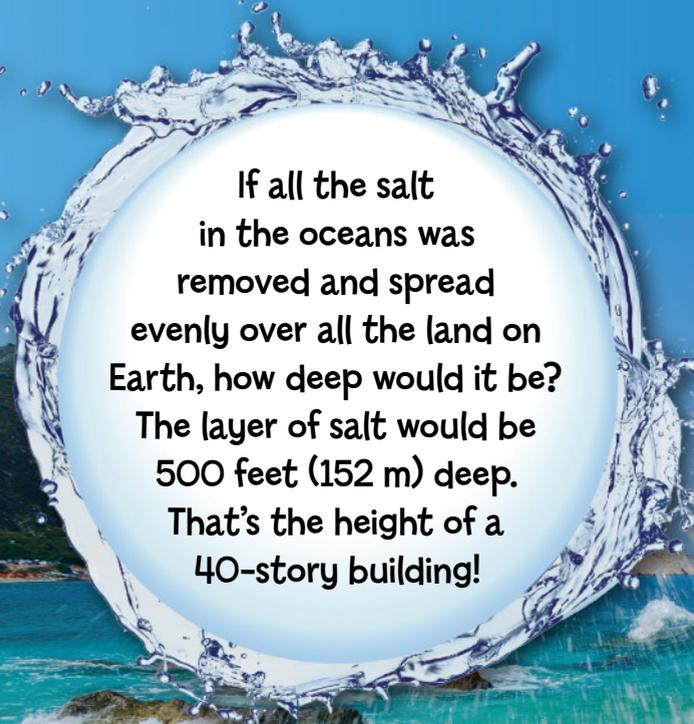
In fact, there's nearly 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of salt in 1 pint (473 ml) of seawater.

The particles of salt are too tiny to see, but you can taste them.



a teaspoon of salt





**If all the salt
in the oceans was
removed and spread
evenly over all the land on
Earth, how deep would it be?
The layer of salt would be
500 feet (152 m) deep.
That's the height of a
40-story building!**

**How do you think salt
gets into the oceans?**