

# Would you rather be a mermaid?

**Type of activity:** Exploring ideas

**Who is it for?** All the family

**What do I need?**

- Access to Internet (optional)
- Creativity, reasoning and time to practice giving arguments



## Introduction

The ocean contains 97% of Earth's water, yet less than 20% of the world's ocean has been mapped so far; with the deepest point of approximately 36,200 feet deep oceans are still a mystery to us. Who knows what hides in its depths - maybe mermaids really do exist 😊? Let's use a simple game to explore it together this World Oceans Day. This is a chance to see how many species we know live in the ocean but also to talk about environmentally friendly behaviours. You can take this wherever you want to go.

## Here is how:

Since you only need your imagination, you can play this game anywhere, anytime, perhaps while doing a beach clean if you happen to be near the water. Make it playful, but what is most important is that we follow up with an explanation for our choice.

Start with the phrase: Would you rather... and add names of ocean life forms, things you can do in the ocean etc. for example:

- Would you rather be a mermaid or a human?
- Would you rather be a seal or a walrus?
- Would you rather be an octopus or a squid?
- Would you rather spend a day snorkelling or going on an underwater expedition to explore an old shipwreck?
- Would you rather try stop buying plastic or go for a beach clean?

## What now?

- Watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwVNkfCov1k> and try to note down what life forms and objects can be found at each level. Then convert imperial measures into metric ones.
- Have a go at thinking about this question: 'f mermaids really existed, would they have the same rights as humans?
- Finally, why not start reading *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas: A World Tour Underwater* which is a classic science fiction adventure novel by French writer Jules Verne.