

Name _____

Date _____

Expository Essay

An **expository essay** presents or explains information or ideas. To ensure that informational texts are clear to readers, writers choose a pattern of organization, a particular arrangement of ideas and information. Facts and details can be organized in a variety of ways.

Read the following expository essay excerpt and answer the questions.

Ocean Exploration: Discovering Earth's Last Frontier

The ocean covers more than 70% of our planet, yet humans have explored less than 5% of this vast underwater world. Scientists often say that we know more about the surface of Mars than we do about the depths of our own oceans.

Ocean exploration involves studying the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of the ocean using specialized equipment. Modern explorers use submarines, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) to reach depths that would crush a human diver. These technologies allow scientists to collect samples, take photographs, and gather data from the deepest parts of the ocean. One of the most significant ocean expeditions was Jacques Cousteau's voyages aboard the research vessel Calypso. Cousteau's team

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developed the aqualung, which revolutionized diving by allowing divers to stay underwater longer. Their discoveries and documentary films brought ocean life into people's living rooms for the first time, creating public awareness about marine conservation.

Today, ocean exploration continues to reveal new species, underwater mountains, hydrothermal vents, and potential resources. These discoveries help scientists understand climate change, develop new medicines, and protect marine ecosystems for future generations.

1. What is the main purpose of this expository essay?

2. Identify two facts presented in this essay about ocean exploration.

3. How does the author organize the information in this essay?

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Expository Essay - Answer Key

1. What is the main purpose of this expository essay?

The main purpose is to inform readers about ocean exploration, including its importance, methods, historical developments, and current benefits.

2. Identify two facts presented in this essay about ocean exploration.

Humans have explored less than 5% of the ocean; Jacques Cousteau's team developed the aqualung which revolutionized diving by allowing divers to stay underwater longer.

3. How does the author organize the information in this essay?

The author organizes information by first introducing the topic, then explaining modern exploration methods, providing historical context with Cousteau's example, and finally discussing current benefits and applications of ocean exploration.