# Into the Deep: Mapping the Ocean Floor

**Author**  
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**Grade Level**  
9-10

**Duration**  
2 class periods

## National Standards

**GEOGRAPHY**  
**Element 1: The World in Spatial Terms**  
1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information

**Essential Element 3: Physical Systems**  
7. The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface

**Element 4: Human Systems**  
17. How to apply geography to interpret the past  
18. How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future

## AZ Standards

**ELA**  
**Reading**  
**Key Ideas and Details**  
9-10.RI.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

**Writing**  
**Production and Distribution of Writing**  
9-10.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

## Arizona Social Science Standards

**GEOGRAPHY**  
**The use of geographic representations and tools help individuals understand their world.**

**HS.G1.1** Use geographic data to explain and analyze relationships between locations of place and regions. Key tools and representations such as maps, remotely sensed and other images, tables, and graphs

**HS.G1.2** Use geospatial tools and related technologies to construct relevant geographic data to explain spatial patterns and relationships. Key tools and representations such as Google Earth, story mapping, wayfaring apps, and other geospatial technologies

**Human-environment interactions are essential aspects of human life in all societies.**

**HS.G2.1** Analyze interactions within and between human and physical systems.

## Mathematics

**Geometry**  
**HS.G-SRT.7** Explain and use the relationship between the sine and cosine of complementary angles.  
**HS.G-SRT.8** Use trigonometric ratios and the Pythagorean Theorem to solve right triangles in applied problems.

## SIOP Elements

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## Arizona English Language Proficiency Standards
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**Grade 9-12**

**Basic Listening and Reading**

Standard 1 By the end of each language proficiency level, an English learner can construct meaning from oral presentations and literary and informational text through grade appropriate listening, reading, and viewing.

B-1: determine the central idea or theme and explain how they are supported by using text evidence.
B-2: recount a text including specific details and information.
B-5: utilize visual information to understand the text.

**Speaking and Writing**

Standard 3 By the end of each language proficiency level, an English learner can speak and write about grade appropriate complex literary and informational texts and topics.

B-3 compose informational text that include relevant details, concepts, and examples to develop a topic while using appropriate conventions.
B-4: integrate graphics or multimedia when useful.
B-5: use examples of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary within informative texts.

**Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing**

Standard 6 By the end of each language proficiency level, an English learner can participate in grade-appropriate oral and written exchanges of information, ideas, and analyses, responding to peer, audience, or reader comments and questions.

B-1: participate in discussions about familiar topics and texts.
B-2: participate in written exchanges about grade-appropriate topics and texts.
B-5: review information expressed by others and add relevant information and evidence to collaborative oral and written discussions.
B-7: summarize the key points expressed.

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**Overview**

Mapping the ocean floor tells us a lot about how the Earth’s surface has changed and what future changes might mean for organisms living here. Even though largely significant movements of the Earth’s plates don’t happen in one lifetime, such movements in the past, such as the break-up of Super Continents, did eventually change life on Earth.

**Purpose**

In this lesson, students will explore how sonar technology is used to map the ocean floor. They will also calculate ocean depths using other known distances and angle measures. The students will discuss how plate tectonics change the surface of the Earth and discover how these changes might impact life forms. This lesson includes strategies for teaching diverse learners.

**Key Vocabulary**

_hypotenuse:_ the side of a right triangle opposite the right angle
_legs:_ the two sides of a right triangle opposite the non-right angles

**Pangea:** a supercontinent that formed about 300 million years ago and broke apart about 175 million years ago

**pressure:** a force exerted on an object by something in contact with it

**salinity:** amount of salt in a body of water

**sonar:** a way to measure depth under water using sound

**Materials**

- Computers or devices that will support the game [http://www.geo.cornell.edu/hawaii/220/PRI/continental_puzzle.html](http://www.geo.cornell.edu/hawaii/220/PRI/continental_puzzle.html) OR a few sets of foam cut-outs OR photo copies of the Pangea Cutouts
- Projection device or White Board for beginning discussion
- Geography Background Comparing Pangea to Continents Today
- Mathematics Background on Trig Ratios and Sine and Cosine
- Learning about Sonar reading
- Trigonometry Worksheet and Answer Key
- Video Questions Note Sheet
- Pangea Cutouts

**Objectives**
**Into the Deep: Mapping the Ocean Floor**

The student will be able to:

1. Solve triangles using trigonometry.
2. Analyze how changes in the Earth’s surface impact life on Earth.

**Procedures**

Prerequisites: Students should have basic knowledge of plate tectonics and how the plates cause changes on the surface of the Earth.

**SESSION ONE**

Engage:

a. Draw t-chart on the board or a project a blank paper. Label one side “Pangea” and the other “Continents Today”. (Preparation: Linking to Background)

b. Ask students to think about key features of each and write them down. Have students share their ideas and record them on the class model for everyone to see. Leave some space between ideas so more information can be added from the next discussion question. (Integrated Processes: Listening, Speaking; Scaffolding: Modeling)

c. Next discuss how some of those features could influence organisms living there and what could have changed when the continent broke up. Go back through the ideas recorded earlier and add the new ideas on how organisms would have changed. (See Teacher Notes)

d. Explain that studying the earth’s surface and the ocean floor and plate tectonics helps us understand how the continents drifted apart.

**Explore:**

a. Have students access the game at [http://www.geo.cornell.edu/hawaii/220/PRI/continental_puzzle.html](http://www.geo.cornell.edu/hawaii/220/PRI/continental_puzzle.html) or hand out a foam continents set to pairs or small groups. (You can also make photo copies of the continents and have students cut them out.) Let them try to piece together Pangea from the modern day continents. If using the online game, discourage them from turning on the Pangea outline. The game can be played in partners if there is limited access to technology. (Grouping Option: Small groups; Application: Promotes Engagement)

b. Ask groups to share out their strategies on how they played the game. (Integrating Process: Listening, Speaking)

c. Let students know that over the next couple days they will be studying how the ocean floor is mapped. Our ocean floor gives us clues to our plate boundaries and is constantly changing as a result of plate tectonics.

d. Ticket Out The Door: Have students answer the following question on a sheet of notebook paper: Explain how Pangea is an example of how changes in the natural environment can increase or diminish its capacity to support life. Be sure to give at least two changes and their consequences. (Assessment: Written)

**SESSION TWO**

**Explain:**

a. Have one or two students summarize what happened in the class yesterday. Introduce today’s class as learning more about our Earth’s surface and tools that we can use to measure changes. (Integrating Process: Listening, Speaking)

b. Pass out Video Questions Note Sheet. Let students read over the questions before the video. (Scaffolding: Comprehensible Input)

c. Play video from beginning to 2:55 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTEjt_m2RLc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTEjt_m2RLc)

d. Have students pair up and retell the important details about using sonar to map the ocean floor and any ideas they had about the links to trig. They may use their Question Sheet to discuss and record additional ideas from a classmate. (Grouping Option: Partners)

**Elaborate:**

a. Set up and explain how to use trig ratios and the laws of sine and cosine. (See Teacher Notes)

b. Show students the song about the laws. (Application: Promotes Engagement) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wsf88ELFkk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wsf88ELFkk)

c. Hand out article about the effects of temperature, salinity, and depth. Have them read independently and underline in pencil their opinion on the 10 Most Important Sentences in the article. (Preparation: Strategies Used)

d. Have a full group discussion on what parts of the article they decided were most important. Now have the students highlight in color the agreed upon 10 sentences. (Integrating Process: Listening, Speaking)

**Evaluate:**

a. Students will complete a worksheet. For the purposes of this activity, they will not take into account the temperature and salinity they read about in the article. They will just be given the time it took for the sound waves to reach the receiver. They will work in pairs to solve the first problem and individually on the second.
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(Grouping Option: Partners; Assessment: Individual, Group, Written) The third question will ask students to describe how sonar (technology) assists us in solving problems. Students who are not done may finish this worksheet for homework.

Assessment

Geography and ELA
Session One Ticket Out can be graded for Ideas and Content. Two correct changes and consequences will be considered mastery.

Geography and Math
The Trigonometry Worksheet can be graded. Mastery will be considered a score of 80% or higher.

Extensions

Students can calculate depths that incorporate the salinity and temperature effects.

Students can write their own songs to remember the laws of sine and cosine.

Students can write a paper or draw a map of how they think the surface of the Earth might look in the next 200 million years. They could share these ideas with the class.

Measuring water depth by Crowdsourcing
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenSeaMap

Sources

Pangea Puzzle Game
http://www.geo.cornell.edu/hawaii/220/PRI/continental_puzzle.html
How Sonar Works
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTEjt_m2RLc
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http://www.dosits.org/people/history/1800s/
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