

KO: Many small islands are located in the Pacific Ocean.

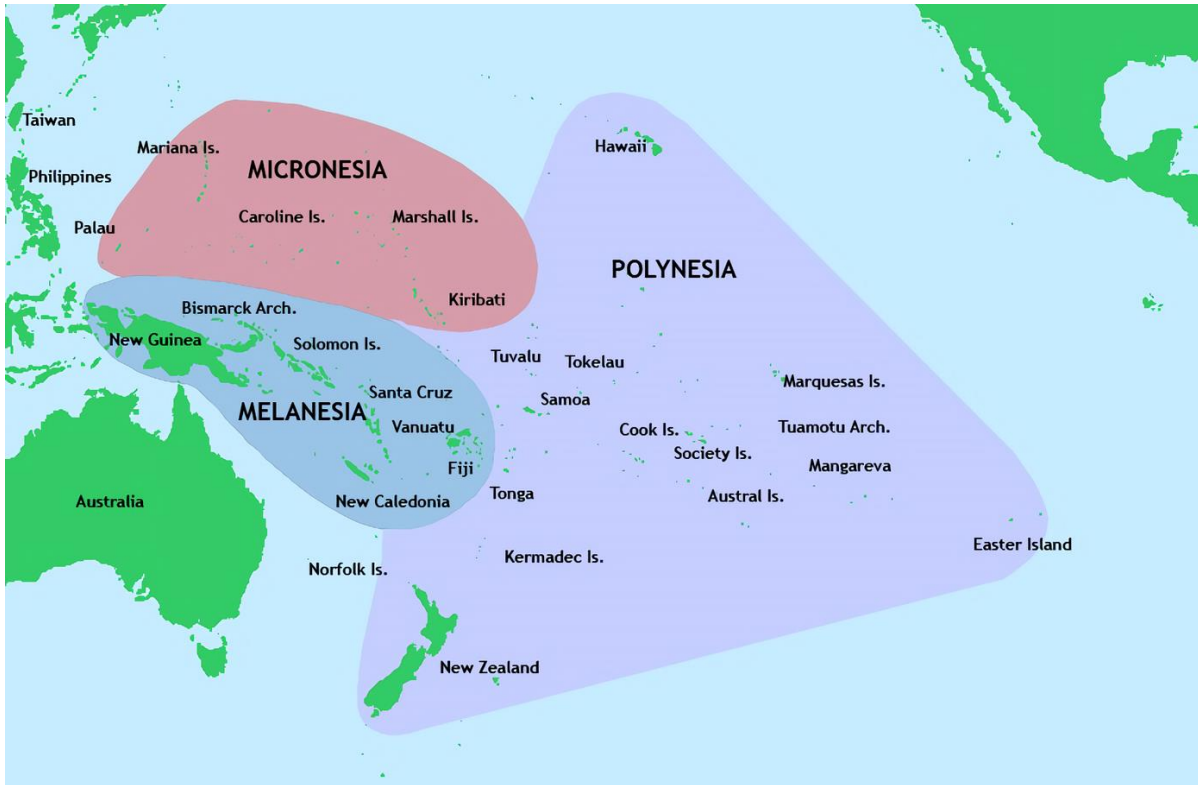
Prior Learning Task: Locate New Zealand on a map of the world. Name the world's oceans.

Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia are the names given to groups of islands in the Pacific Ocean.

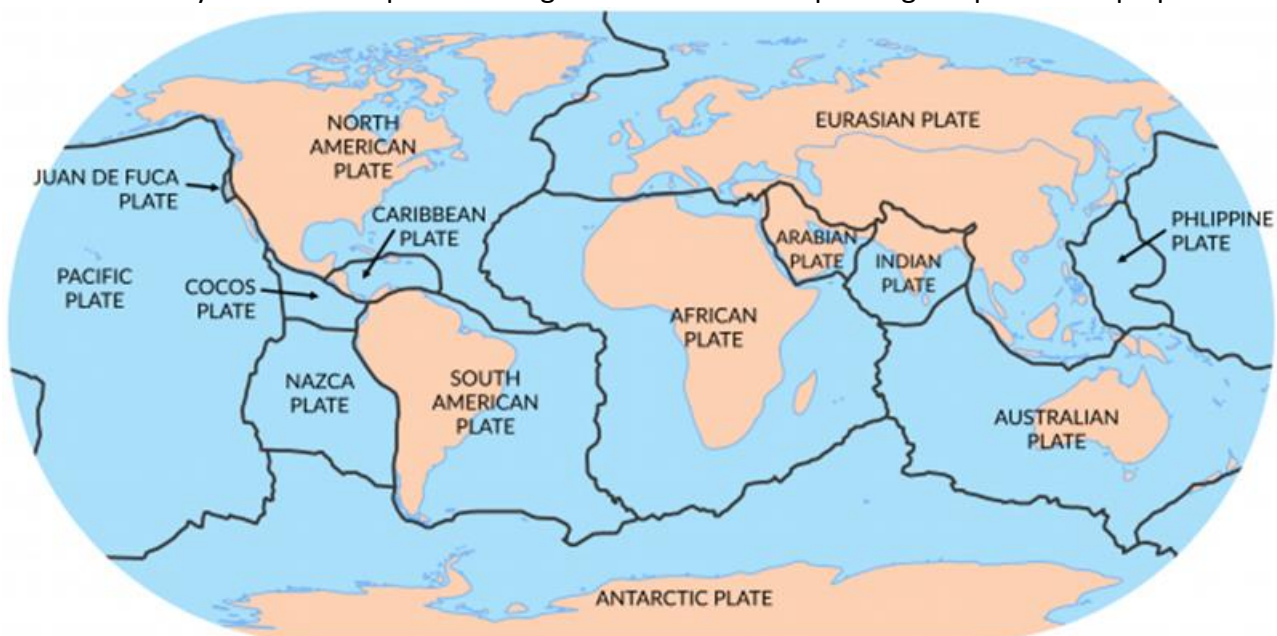
Melanesia means black islands, including New Guinea, Fiji, the Solomon Islands and many smaller islands.

Micronesia means small islands.

Polynesia means many islands, and includes Hawaii and New Zealand.



Some of the South Pacific Islands were formed as chains of volcanic islands, some are coral reefs formed on top of sunken volcanoes that have developed into islands, such as the Cook Islands, some islands have been formed by one tectonic plate moving under another and pushing the plate on top upwards.





The Cook Islands, named after Captain James Cook, are a group of islands in the South Pacific, associated with New Zealand. The people that live there hold New Zealand citizenship. In 2019, islanders began considering changing the name of the islands to reflect their Polynesian heritage.

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwnJ49ZkxSs>



Easter Island is also called Rapa Nui. It is a small island that is hilly with no trees. The island is basically a single huge volcano that rises over 3,000m from the Pacific Ocean floor! The island has 887 humongous statues, called 'moai' which were made by the early Rapa Nui people. Easter Island is one of the world's most famous islands, as well as an archaeological site, which is hardly ever visited to find out more about the remains. How weird! It also became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995, with a large amount of the island being protected within the Rapa Nui National Park.

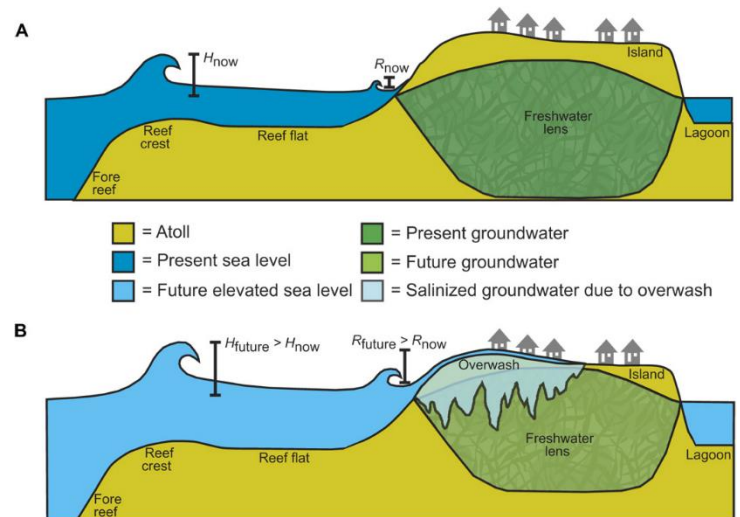
Watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KljZ28SXz0c>



Tourism is important to the Pacific Islands, people come for the beautiful beaches and to dive in the blue seas.

The islands are vulnerable to a number of environmental issues including climate change, sea level rise, whaling, overfishing, deforestation and waste management.



Watch these videos:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZe5DglQBfc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxqK-Ujj-IU>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ua4ZqbUGZC0&feature=emb_logo

Because the islands are small, fresh water is an essential resource, the islands are surrounded by sea water but drinking water is scarce.

Why is sea level rise more important to people living in the Solomon Islands than the UK?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XG3T7IHhiA&feature=emb_logo

Independent Task:

Label a map of the Pacific Islands. Explain which environmental issues are important to the Pacific Islands and why.

Step for depth:

If environmental issues are not considered carefully, how could the Pacific Islands change in the future?

Plenary: How can the Pacific Islands be protected?

Label the following countries on the map.

New Zealand
Indonesia
East Timor
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
New Caledonia
Vanuatu
Cook Islands
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Fiji

