



The Blue Planet: A Natural History of the Oceans

Andrew Byatt , Alastair Fothergill , Martha Holmes , David Attenborough (Introduction)

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From space Planet Earth is blue. It floats like a jewel in the inky black void. The reflection of the sun's light from the vast expanse of water covering its surface creates its gem-like blue colour. In the entire solar system Earth is the only planet that has water in its liquid form in such quantities. Scientists have calculated that 70% of our planet is covered by water; small wonder then that humans have always been so fascinated by the oceans and what lies beneath. Today while we still have so much more of the ocean realm to uncover we have discovered enough to know that beneath the waves lies a vast treasure-trove of rich and diverse life. The Blue Planet leads us on a voyage of exploration from the coasts, the very edges of the oceans, to the deep where weird and monstrous fish lurk in a world of perpetual darkness. Along the way we meet a host of wonderful creatures from tiny copepods to majestic blue whales, from the grotesque hairy anglerfish, to the amazing tripod fish that stands on 3 delicate legs waiting to snap up unsuspecting prey. With a foreword by David Attenborough and 400 colour photos The Blue Planet is the first complete and comprehensive portrait of the whole ocean system.

The Blue Planet: A Natural History of the Oceans Details

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Brent says

A great supplement to the DVDs, this book is filled with great photos and innumerable fascinating facts about the ocean. It is a bit dense at times--my brother-in-law thought it was a textbook--but I still enjoyed it.

Peter says

Excellent - Must Have!: This is an absolutely beautiful book. There is an abundance of beautiful images of creatures from shrimp to great whites, algae to sharks. If it lives in the sea, its in this book. The majority of the pictures are breath-taking and are accompanied by informative text about the photograph. For anyone who loves nature or deep-sea animals (Even penguins get a mention) this book is a must have. A perfect accompaniment to the series, or perfect on its own, this is a must have for anyone!

I just have to say again, the pictures are beautiful and the layout of the book is great.

Heather says

Very cool book. The pictures are beautiful.

Kirk says

Three members of the BBC's production crew for the television series, "The Blue Planet," form Voltron for this splendid companion book. Although the book's layout and hefty proportions make it akin to a high school textbook, the pacing of the content is uniform and completely readable. Large, color photographs appear on every page and really help to stimulate the imagination. Some of the underwater creatures are so bizarre that simply reading about them isn't enough; take, for example, the angler fish species where the tiny males latch onto the larger females and fuse with them for life. Or narwhals, with their meter-long tusks protruding from their heads like unicorns of the sea. Some of the information from the television series repeats here, but it is mostly broad concepts, and you don't feel like you're reading a movie novelization; by and large, what repetition there is only serves to reinforce the information, and I wasn't annoyed by it.

I should think that ages 12+ would have no problem understanding the concepts presented here, and the younger ages would still be able to appreciate all of the fascinating pictures. A must-have if you enjoyed the television series. I read it in Sir David Attenborough's voice, for the sake of consistency (and just because I love his tone and cadence).
