

**Have you ever wondered what life is like on the ocean floor?**

Scientists refer to the ocean depths as the “*last frontier.*”

**Who are the daring scientists that explore deep in the ocean?**



## Dawn Wright

### Geography and Oceanography

Meet Dawn Wright. Dr. Wright grew up in Hawaii where she was surrounded by the ocean. As a child, she watched a television show called *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*. Cousteau was a scientist and an ocean explorer. In each episode of his show, Cousteau explored environments and animals living in the ocean. He taught people about things

they would probably never see. Dr. Wright’s enjoyment of the show sparked her passion of exploring the unknown!

Dr. Wright first studied geology—the study of Earth and its materials—to help her understand the physical features of oceans. Then she studied oceanography, which includes the study of all things related to the ocean. Once she completed her education, Dr. Wright was ready to explore!

So what does Dr. Wright do today? She explains, “I make maps of the ocean floor to unlock the buried treasure of scientific insight.” Using technology, such as satellites and underwater cameras, she creates maps of ocean environments. Improved technologies let scientists learn more over time. These technologies help Dr. Wright analyze information about ocean floors and coastlines. One aspect of her career includes working on submersibles. An underwater craft allows Dr. Wright to dive to the bottom of oceans to study their environments.



Dr. Wright’s work helps environmentalists, conservationists, and climate scientists in their research. Her work helps them think about how to protect the oceans as an important natural resource. It also helps researchers better understand how animals and materials react to changing conditions in the oceans. Changing oceans affect weather and climate, and changing climate affects the oceans.

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Dr. Wright holds a Master of Science in oceanography. She also has a Ph.D. in physical geography and marine geology.

Like a detective, Dr. Wright solves the mystery of what the “last frontier” holds. She has turned her love of the oceans, her desire to explore the unknown, and her scientific training into an amazing career.

### Works Cited

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