

SURF'S

UP!

Will Kelly Slater
find the
ultimate wave?

Americans call it Cho-poo or, simply, the Chopes. Its real name is Teahupoo [tee-ah-hoo-poh-oh]. Located off the coast of Tahiti in the Pacific Ocean, it is where surfers go in search of massive waves. A new documentary, *The Ultimate Wave Tahiti 3D*, captures the power of the waves—and the science behind them.

Director Stephen Low's original intention was to chase a wave around the world. Then he went to Tahiti. "I just fell in love with the place," he tells JS. The film, which stars surfing legend Kelly Slater, 38, draws a connection, Low says, "among the Polynesian culture, the waves, and the natural history." The "ultimate wave," says Low, is a metaphor for life. "If you have the right spirit, if you have the right state of mind, the ultimate wave will come looking for you."



I am Jim McMahon, aka Mapman. I create all of the maps for Junior Scholastic. Explore the world with me, and play my Mapman Game at scholastic.com/js.

JS TRAVELS TO TAHITI TO "HANG TEN" WITH KELLY SLATER

Slater on Surfing

Kelly Slater's life is all about adventure. The nine-time world surfing champ travels the globe in search of the perfect wave. JS spoke with him on the set of *The Ultimate Wave Tahiti 3D*, which recently hit IMAX theaters.

JS: What is the ultimate wave?

KS: The ultimate wave is different for everyone. For me, I would probably like not a massive wave, not a 60-foot wave, but probably a 20-foot wave. Anywhere between 10 and 20 feet is what I love.

JS: What skills do you need to develop on land to help you surf well?

KS: You need to be calm in intense situations. My mom was a paramedic and a firefighter, so if I see a car accident or someone drowning, to me it's an opportunity to help somebody as opposed to being a scary thing, like, "I don't want to get involved." I tend to gravitate toward those situations where I want to jump in and help out. . . . In the ocean, you've really got to be ready [for tough situations].

JS: Where is your favorite place to surf?

KS: I like Teahupoo. Do you know the meaning of that? Teahupoo means "wall of skulls."
—Suzanne McCabe



WEB WATCH
Tahiti slideshow and the complete Slater interview
scholastic.com/js

For surf champ Kelly Slater, the barrel of a wave is the place to be.



Hidden Treasures

Explore the oceans around the South Pacific islands

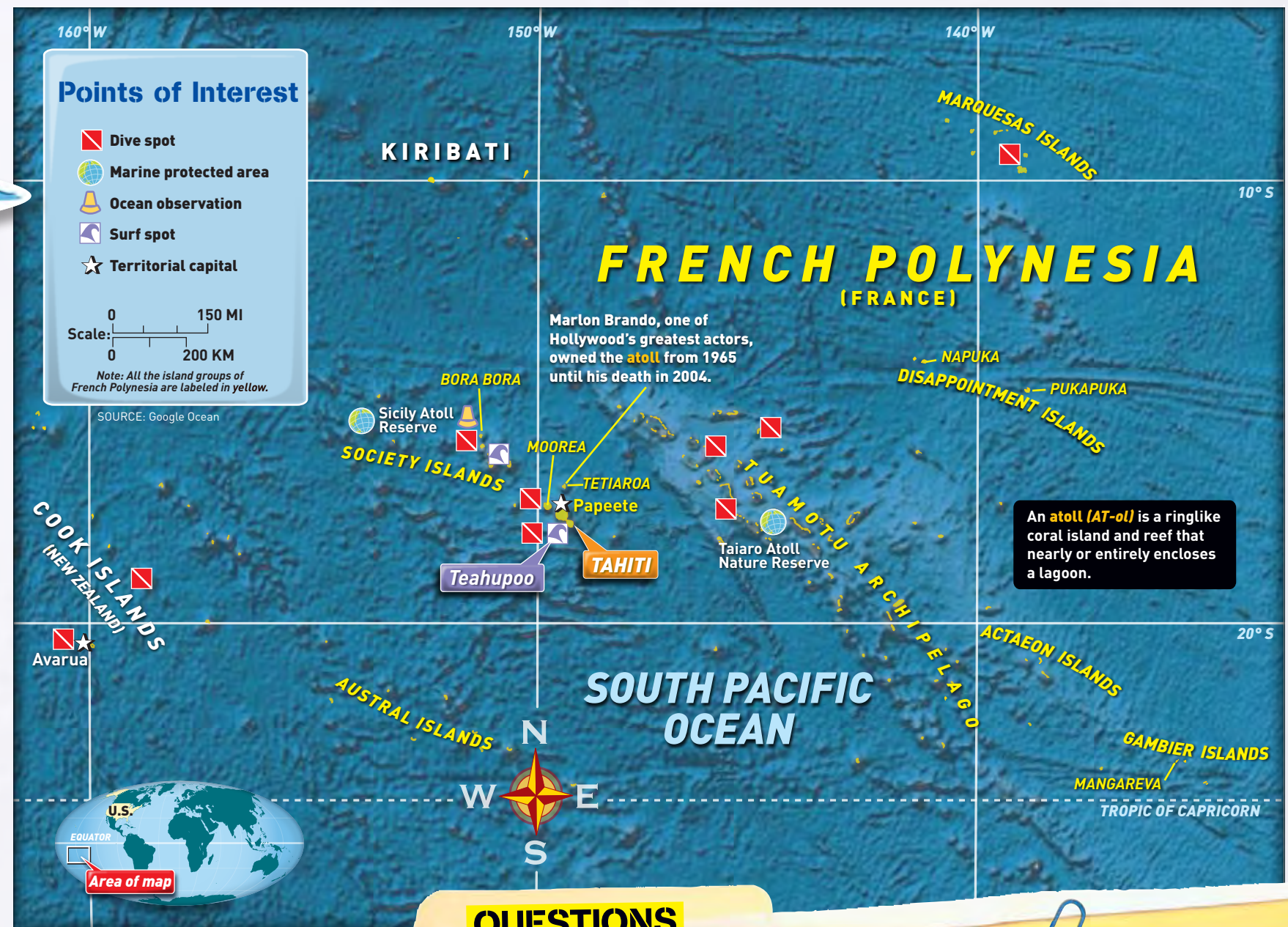
Google, the Internet search giant, has led the satellite-mapping revolution. Last year, Google added oceans to its collection of images of the planet captured by satellites in space. The ocean layer allows you to explore the mysterious seafloor far below the water's surface. From your computer, you can probe the hidden worlds of reefs, seamounts (underwater mountains), and shipwrecks lying beneath the surface of the world's oceans.

In 1945, satellites were the stuff of science fiction. Arthur C. Clarke, a sci-fi writer and big thinker, predicted that someday they would circle the planet, broadcasting scientific data back to Earth. His idea was considered far-fetched at the time, but Clarke was right. His prediction that satellites would revolutionize the way we communicate—and the way we see our planet—has come true.

Clarke, who was curious about many things, asked: Why do we call our planet "Earth" when nearly three fourths of it is covered by ocean? The image at right shows the seafloor surrounding the South Pacific islands of French Polynesia, where Tahiti is located. Scattered across an area slightly larger than the Southwestern United States, these 130 islands boast some of the world's best beaches, dive sites, and surf spots. Study the map, then answer the questions. —Jim McMahon



A diver off the coast of Bora Bora snaps photos of butterfly fish. The island of Bora Bora is famous for its turquoise waters and white sand beaches.



1. In which ocean is French Polynesia located?
2. Off which island is Teahupoo located?
3. What is the territorial capital of French Polynesia?
4. Which island group is located nearest to 10°S, 140°W?
5. What is the distance in miles between Tahiti and Mangareva?
6. What is the territorial capital of the Cook Islands?
7. Which marine protected area is situated in the Society Islands?
8. Pukapuka is part of which island group?
9. Which famous person owned an atoll in French Polynesia? What was the name of the atoll?
10. Is French Polynesia located north or south of the equator?