



The HB Ocean Adventure Schools Programme is a Galway Stopover Volvo Ocean Race 2008-2009 Legacy Initiative. It introduces teachers and students in primary and secondary schools throughout Ireland to the sport of sailing, the marine environment, Ireland and its history with the sea, a variety of geography lessons and marine careers.

This week the Green Dragon is expected in Rio. The Green Dragon currently holds fourth position and they are looking over their shoulder to Telefonica Blue who have been caught in a more favourable weather window. Speeds range from 0.5 knots for Ericsson 3 to 6.5 knots for PUMA. Green Dragon is the most westerly boat taking a route closer to the coastline.

### OCEAN FACTS & CLASSROOM TASKS...

- **The knot** is a unit of speed equal to one nautical mile per hour. Worldwide, the knot is used in meteorology, and in maritime and air navigation. Until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century vessel speed at sea was measured using a **chip log**. This consisted of a wooden panel, weighted on one edge to float upright and thus have substantial water resistance, attached by line to a reel. Learn more about these ocean facts at [www.letsdoitschools.com](http://www.letsdoitschools.com)

#### **1 international knot =**

*1 nautical mile per hour (exactly),*

*1.852 kilometres per hour (exactly),*

*0.514 meters per second,*

*1.15077945 miles per hour (approximately).*

***Learn more about sailing and the weather in Lesson Four page 30 in your 'Let's Do It Schools Ocean Adventure' - Classroom Guide.***

- The Green Dragon is now sailing along the **Southern Atlantic Ocean**. The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest of the world's oceanic divisions; **with a total area of about 106.4 million square kilometres** (41.1 million square miles). The Atlantic Ocean occupies an elongated, S-shaped basin extending longitudinally between the Americas to the west, and Eurasia and Africa to the east. A component of the all-encompassing World Ocean, it is connected in the north to the Arctic Ocean (which is sometimes considered a sea of the Atlantic), to the Pacific Ocean in the southwest, the Indian Ocean in the southeast, and the Southern Ocean in the south. Learn more at [www.letsdoitschools.com](http://www.letsdoitschools.com)

*The Atlantic Ocean covers approximately **one-fifth of the Earth's surface**. The equator subdivides it into the North Atlantic Ocean and South Atlantic Ocean. The first part of its name refers to the Atlas of Greek mythology, making the Atlantic the "Sea of Atlas". The oldest known mention of this name is contained in The Histories of Herodotus around 450 BC (I 202). Before Europeans discovered other oceans, the term "ocean" was synonymous with the waters beyond Western Europe that we now know as the Atlantic and which the Greeks had believed to be a gigantic river encircling the world.*



*The principal feature of the bottom topography of the Atlantic Ocean is a submarine mountain range called the **Mid-Atlantic Ridge**. It extends from Iceland in the north to approximately 58° South latitude, reaching a maximum width of about 1,600 kilometres (1,000 mi). A great rift valley also extends along the ridge over most of its length. The depth of water over the ridge is less than 2,700 m (8,900 ft) in most places, and several mountain peaks rise above the water and form islands. **The South Atlantic Ocean** has an additional submarine ridge, the Walvis Ridge.*