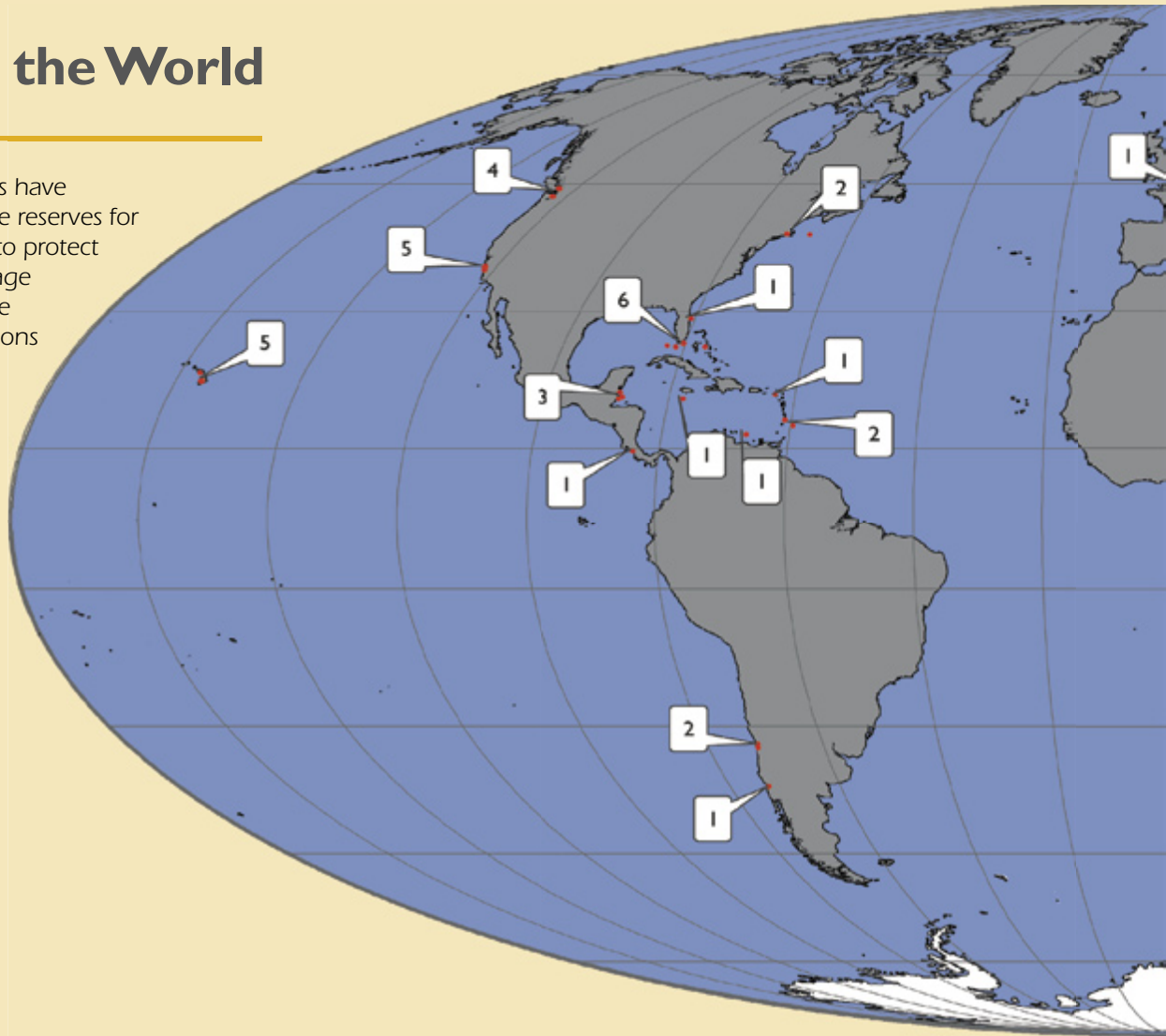


# a round the World

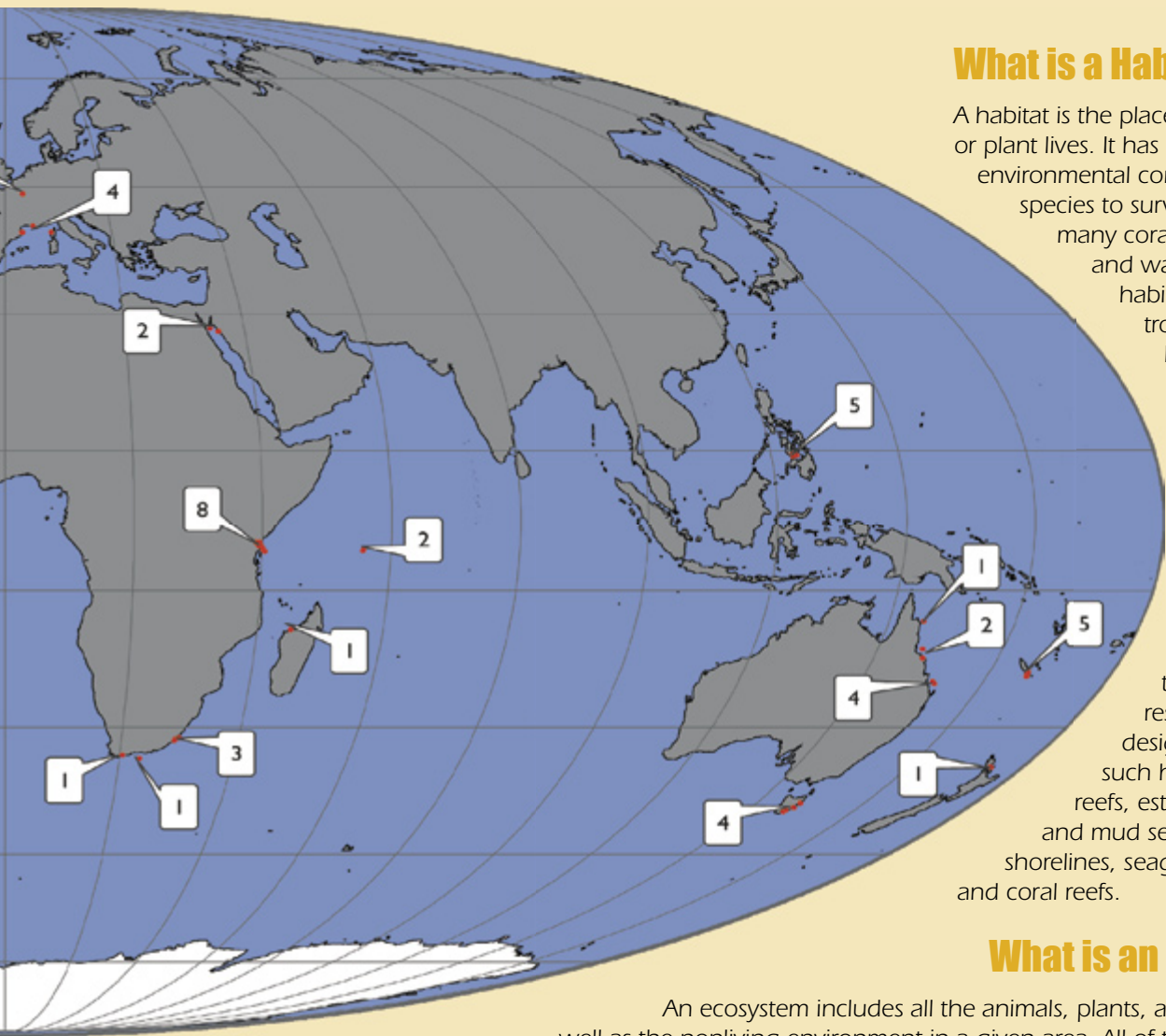
- At least 23 nations have established marine reserves for various reasons - to protect biodiversity, manage fisheries, or restore depleted populations of marine animals and plants.

Australia  
Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belize  
Canada  
Chile  
Costa Rica  
Egypt  
Fiji  
France  
Japan  
Kenya  
Madagascar  
New Caledonia  
New Zealand  
Philippines  
Saba (Netherlands Antilles)  
Saint Lucia  
Seychelles  
South Africa  
Spain  
United States  
Venezuela



- **More than 100 marine reserves have been established worldwide.**
- **Marine reserves encompass much less than 1 percent of the world's oceans and less than 0.01 percent of U.S. waters.**
- **Marine reserves range in size from less than a square mile to hundreds of square miles. Currently, most reserves are quite small, and the median reserve size is less than 1.5 square miles.**

# marine reserves studied around the world



1 number of reserves studied at each location

### What is a Habitat?

A habitat is the place where an animal or plant lives. It has all the necessary environmental conditions for that species to survive. For example, many corals require sunlight and warm water. Their habitats are in shallow tropical seas.

Habitats support many different communities of animals and plants. Natural or human-caused activities may change habitats and the species living there. Marine reserves have been designed to protect such habitats as rocky reefs, estuaries, sand and mud seafloors, rocky shorelines, seagrass meadows, and coral reefs.

### What is an Ecosystem?

An ecosystem includes all the animals, plants, and microbes as well as the nonliving environment in a given area. All of these elements are connected through biological, chemical, and physical processes. Each species plays a role in an ecosystem. For example, algae, fishes, invertebrates, mammals, and microbes in a kelp forest interact to form a rich marine ecosystem. When one species is reduced or removed, others may be affected. Ecosystems can be large or small. The Gulf of Maine is an example of a very large ecosystem that includes diverse habitats across thousands of square miles.

**Scientists have studied** some marine reserves extensively. Their findings provide considerable information about the effects of reserves. The above map shows the locations of 80 fully protected marine reserves. Scientists have analyzed data from these reserves and published the results in scientific journals. Approximately 40 percent of these reserves are in temperate waters, while the others are in tropical waters. Many other marine reserves exist but have not been monitored effectively, making it difficult to evaluate their effects.