Massive ocean discovered beneath the Earth's crust containing more water than on the surface

It feels like there have been staggering science stories emerging every other day recently, all of which have blown our tiny little minds.

First, there was the discovery of a terrifying black hole pointing right at us, then there was a huge hole found in the sun and a missing continent found after going missing for 375 years.

Now, people are only just realising that there's a massive ocean hidden under the Earth's crust.

It turns out there's a huge supply of water 400 miles underground stored in rock known as 'ringwoodite'.

Scientists previously discovered that water is stored inside mantle rock in a sponge-like state, which isn't a liquid, solid or a gas, but instead a fourth state.

The scientific paper titled 'Dehydration melting at the top of the lower mantle' was published in 2014 and laid out the findings.

The ringwoodite is like a sponge, soaking up water, there is something very special about the crystal structure of ringwoodite that allows it to attract hydrogen and trap water," said geophysicist Steve Jacobsen at the time.

There's three times as much water below the surface than in the oceans (iStock)© Provided by Indy 100

"This mineral can contain a lot of water under conditions of the deep mantle," added Jacobsen, who was part of the team behind the discovery.

He added: "I think we are finally seeing evidence for a whole-Earth water cycle, which may help explain the vast amount of liquid water on the surface of our habitable planet. Scientists have been looking for this missing deep water for decades."

Scientists Just Discovered A Vast Hidden Ocean Inside Earth - YouTube

Scientists made the findings at the time after studying earthquakes and discovering that seismometers were picking up shockwaves under the surface of the Earth.

From that, they were able to establish that the water was being held in the rock known as ringwoodite.

If the rock contained just 1 per cent water, it would mean that there is three times more water under the surface of the Earth than there is in the oceans on the surface.