

A **resource** is a material that living things use.

Water, fisheries and electricity are resources that are **vital to our existence**.

WATER is an **inexhaustible** resource. Even polluted water can be used again if it is cleaned. Earth's processes help clean water.

Fresh water is a limited resource that people need to conserve and keep clean. People need water every day for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning. Factories and farms use water to make products people need.

FISHERIES are an essential resource. About 75% of the world's fish is used for human consumption. The demand for seafood has been rising globally due to increased awareness of seafood's healthy properties. Many medicines contain compounds derived from marine plants. The ocean provides goods, services and employment to millions of people around the world, e.g. snorkeling, diving and sports fishing.

The principal **commercial fisheries** in The Bahamas are crawfish, conch, shallow water scale fish-grouper, jacks, snappers and grunts and deep water scale fish-red snapper.

There are many threats to fisheries. There is habitat loss, over fishing, pollution, introduction of non-native or exotic species, invasive fish species and climate change.

ELECTRICITY is a form of energy and is another essential resource. This resource is vital because it is used to operate appliances, and make our lives more enriched.

CONSERVATION is the wise use and careful management of natural resources. Resources can be conserved by: - developing projects that are eco-friendly-maintains relationships in an ecosystem. Disposing of waste, garbage and refuse properly. Making laws to protect the environment. Engaging in activities such as reducing, reusing and recycling unwanted materials. Restoring damaged ecosystems. Reintroducing animals that once lived there. Turning off appliances when not in use. Investigating other forms of energy that can replace electricity.

Protection of marine resources may take the form of – education of students about the importance of marine biodiversity, – foster a conservation ethic, habitat protection and restoration, – regulations and enforcement of laws as they relate to the protection of marine life and ecosystems.

PRESERVATION is the protection of an area. In The Bahamas, the Government helps to preserve ecosystems by making laws and setting up protected areas. Marine protected areas are some of the main methods for protecting marine ecosystems and species that depend upon them. These include Marine Parks or Sanctuaries, No Sanctuaries, No Sanctuaries, No-Take Reserves and Fully Protected Marine Reserves.

Fill in the blanks.

1. Water is an _____ resource.
2. _____ is a limited resource that people need to conserve and keep clean.
3. Even _____ water can be used again if it is cleaned.

Answer the following questions.

4. What is a resource?
5. Name **THREE** resources that are vital to our existence.

6. Name **THREE** principal commercial fisheries in The Bahamas.

7. Why is electricity an essential resource?
8. Preservation is defined as the protection of an area. How does the government of The Bahamas help to preserve ecosystems?