

Ocean Resources and Pollution

Vocabulary

- **aragonite**-very fine limestone sand used in making glass, cement, fertilizer
- **desalination**-the process by which ocean water is changed to fresh water
- **pollution**-something added to the environment that is harmful to living things
- **seaweed**-a marine plant that grows in the oceans, rivers and other bodies of water

The oceans are important sources of food, minerals, freshwater, oil and natural gases. The ocean is about 65% of the oxygen in the air. One mineral taken from the ocean water of The Bahamas is salt. Heat from the sun causes fresh water to evaporate from the ocean leaving the salt behind. Ocean water is also changed to fresh water by a process called desalination

Aragonite

Another mineral taken from the ocean in The Bahamas is aragonite. Aragonite is dredged from the sea at Ocean Cay in Bimini.

Seaweed

Marine plants such as seaweed are used in many countries as a source of food, medicine, shoe polish, soap and fertilizer.

Pollution

Pollution is the contamination of air, land and water. Pollution of the oceans can be caused by oil spills. It can also be caused by fishermen using chemicals like bleach to catch crawfish. Garbage is a large source of ocean pollution. Pollution damages the oceans and destroys plant and animal life. We should take precautions to prevent pollution.