Lesson 15

Ocean Resources

Any useful minerals and other materials that people take from the earth are called an earth resource. The **ocean** is an important source of resources. Ocean waters are filled with huge amounts of plants and animals. Among the ocean's most important resources are its Fish and Shellfish.

Popular seafood include: -
Fish: Grouper, Snapper, Jacks, Grunt, Google Eyes, Bonefish Barracuda



Mollusks:
conch, curds
whelks,

Crustaceans:
crawfish. shrimp, crab

Sea plants are another resource. Plants such as seaweed and kelp are used as food. They are also used in products such as **hand creams, toothpaste,** and **fertilizers**. The ocean floor contains many minerals. Gas and oil are buried deep beneath the ocean floor, and seawater itself is an important resource.

Pollutants that affect the ocean are:
paper towels cardboard boxes
cotton rope
6 pk. rings
plastic jugs
fishing lines
human waste
tin cans
diapers
oil slicks
fertilizers
wood
styrofoam cups/buoys
aluminum cans

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Pollution affects marine life in very harmful ways. Fertilizers and detergents contain phosphorus. Phosphorus causes algae to grow very quickly.

Oceans are also polluted by natural means and by humans. People dump waste material into the ocean and later it washes up on the beach. Often the waste consists of **non-biodegradable** substances which are: **plastics, polyester, foam cups, steel, tin, aluminum, glass,** and **circuit boards. Non-biodegradable** is a word used to identify a product that over time nature is unable to break down into the natural components of nature itself. Marine life eats the plastic and strangle. This also occurs in organisms that feed on or near bodies of water.

Oil spills are another source of pollution. Oil clean up campaigns – soaked up by substances that absorb oil; spray with detergents that break up oil into droplet; skimmers can be used to remove oil from the water surface; add bacteria that digest oil to the water and the beach.

Ocean pollution can be reduced in many ways.

- Water can be treated before it flows into the ocean.
- Industries can be more careful about how and where they discard wastes.
- Scientists are working to develop new kinds of plastics that are biodegradable.
- More substances can be recycled so that they can be reused and not dumped.
- We should take every precaution to prevent the pollution of our oceans.

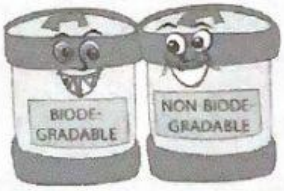
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1. What is the ocean filled with? [2]

2. Name TWO plants that are used as food. [2]

3. Name TWO pollutants that affect the ocean. [2]

The pictures show biodegradable and non-biodegradable.



4. Define what non-biodegradable is. [1]

5. Give TWO examples of non-biodegradable materials. [2]

6. Humans pollute the ocean and endanger our marine resources. Explain TWO ways in which this can happen. [4]

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