

Passage 8 (B1 Level):

Topic: The Wonders of the Ocean

The world's oceans are vast bodies of water that cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface. They are teeming with life and play a crucial role in maintaining the planet's ecosystem. Let's dive into the fascinating world of oceans and explore their wonders.

Oceans are home to an incredible variety of marine life. From microscopic plankton to massive whales, the diversity of species in the ocean is astounding. Coral reefs, often referred to as the rainforests of the sea, are hotspots of biodiversity, supporting countless organisms. Fish of all shapes, sizes, and colors swim through coral reefs, forming intricate ecosystems that provide food and shelter for many other species.

Not only do oceans harbor a wide array of creatures, but they also contribute to regulating the Earth's climate. They absorb heat from the atmosphere, helping to stabilize global temperatures. Oceans also act as carbon sinks, absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas responsible for climate change. The health of our oceans is crucial in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

In addition to their ecological importance, oceans have significant economic value. They provide a source of livelihood for millions of people around the world through fishing, tourism, and transportation. Many coastal communities rely on the ocean for their sustenance and economic well-being. Furthermore, the ocean is a popular destination for tourists, who flock to coastal areas to enjoy its stunning beaches, engage in water sports, and explore marine life through activities like scuba diving and snorkeling.

However, oceans face numerous threats and challenges. Pollution, overfishing, habitat destruction, and climate change are endangering marine ecosystems. Plastic waste, in particular, poses a severe problem, with millions of tons of plastic entering the ocean each year, harming marine life and ecosystems. It is essential for individuals, communities, and governments to take action to protect and conserve our oceans for future generations.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What percentage of the Earth's surface is covered by oceans?

a) 30%

b) 50%

c) 70%

d) 90%

2. What are coral reefs often referred to as?

a) Deserts of the sea

b) Rainforests of the sea

c) Mountains of the sea

d) Islands of the sea

3. How do oceans contribute to regulating the Earth's climate?

a) By releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

b) By increasing global temperatures

c) By acting as carbon sinks and absorbing heat from the atmosphere

d) By causing climate change

4. What economic benefits do oceans provide?

a) Source of clean drinking water

b) Source of renewable energy

c) Source of livelihood through fishing, tourism, and transportation

d) Source of minerals and precious metals

5. What is one of the main threats to the oceans?

a) Overpopulation

b) Deforestation

c) Air pollution

d) Plastic waste

(c-b-c-d-d)