

Protecting our Oceans

Saltwater systems are a vital part of the Earth's biosphere. Don't let human waste destroy our **oceans**! Trash often piles up in **coastal zones**. It washes in and out with the tide in **intertidal zones**. Creatures that live in **estuaries** and **coastal wetlands** are especially affected. **Coral reefs** are also in danger. These active areas support about 25% of all ocean life. Trash from humans usually starts at the coasts. However, it is a threat to every **aquatic life zone**, from the surface to the **ocean bottom**. It floats out to **open sea** with the tide. There, the plastics and chemicals harm many varieties of aquatic life.

coral

ocean

human waste

estuary

coastal zone



Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 In what area does a river meet the sea?
- 2 What area in an ocean is home to a wide variety of life?

Reading

2 Read the brochure. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ Trash typically stays in intertidal zones.
- 2 ___ Coral reefs contain about half of all ocean life.
- 3 ___ Only the ocean bottom is unaffected by trash.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 ___ ocean | 4 ___ coral reef |
| 2 ___ open sea | 5 ___ intertidal zone |
| 3 ___ saltwater | 6 ___ aquatic life zone |

- A a large body of water
 B an underwater area with particular characteristics
 C an area of deep water away from the coast
 D bodies of water containing salt
 E an area made up of mineral structures
 F an area that is sometimes underwater and sometimes exposed

4 Read the sentences and choose the correct words.

- 1 The debris sank from the surface down to the **intertidal zone** / **ocean bottom**.
- 2 Most sea life lives in the warm waters of the **open sea** / **coastal zone**.
- 3 The **estuary** / **ocean** contains some saltwater and some freshwater.
- 4 Many trees grow in the **coastal wetlands** / **coral reef**.

- 5 Listen and read the brochure again. What kind of waste pollutes oceans?

Listening

- 6 Listen to a conversation between two scientists. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the conversation?
- A which organisms live in a coral reef
 - B differences between aquatic life zones
 - C the condition of different ocean areas
 - D methods for cleaning coastal zones
- 2 What is the woman's good news?
- A The industrial waste was cleaned up.
 - B The coral reef recovered.
 - C The chemical spill was not harmful.
 - D The crab population increased.

- 7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

- Scientist 1: How did your 1 _____ go?
- Scientist 2: Well, there's good news and bad news.
- Scientist 1: Uh oh. What was 2 _____ it?
- Scientist 2: We found a large patch of industrial waste. It's right above the northeastern 3 _____.
- Scientist 1: That's not good. Coral reefs develop slowly. It could take years to 4 _____.
- Scientist 2: I know. But on the 5 _____, the Seaborn Estuary is much cleaner.
- Scientist 1: Isn't that where they had that nasty chemical spill? A lot of crabs were killed, right?
- Scientist 2: That's right. Now the 6 _____ is almost back to normal.

Speaking

- 8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

How did ... go?

We found ...

On the other hand ...

Student A: You are a scientist. Talk to Student B about:

- his or her findings on a research trip
- a problem in an aquatic life zone
- an improvement in an aquatic life zone

Student B: You are a scientist. Talk to Student A about your findings on a research trip.

Writing

- 9 Use the brochure and the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the research report.

Summary of

Aquatic Research Expedition

I found a problem in _____

The problem was _____

I found an improvement in _____

The improvement was _____

coral
reef