

Study Guide for Unit 21a: Ocean Resources & Services

Humans and the Ocean & UNCLOS (The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)

1. What are the three major uses of the ocean?
2. "Most of our drinking water was originally in the ocean." Is this statement true or false? If it is true, how do we get the salt out of the water? If it is false, where does most of our drinking water come from?
3. "Most of the oxygen on the Earth is made in the ocean by ocean life, not by plants on land."
4. Approximately what percentage of the world's population lives "close" to (within about 120 miles of) the ocean?
5. What is an EEZ (exclusive economic zone)? How does it differ from a territorial sea?
6. Which of the following statements about EEZs are true?

"According to the Law of the Sea, a country has the right to stop, board, and inspect any ship that is travelling through its EEZ."

"According to the Law of the Sea, a country can refuse to let military ships from other countries pass through its EEZ."

"According to the Law of the Sea, a country owns all of the oil and natural gas deposits in its EEZ."

"According to the Law of the Sea, a country can fish in another country's EEZ."

"According to the Law of the Sea, a country can dump wastes (pollute the water) in another country's EEZ."

"The United States has extensively explored its EEZ and has detailed knowledge of the resources that it contains."

Mineral Resources

7. What is the most economically valuable mineral resource that humans take from the ocean?

8. What percentage of the petroleum (oil & natural gas) that we use today comes from the ocean?

How does the use of petroleum affect your life? What do we use it for? What do we use it to do? Be specific.

9. Give 2 examples of non-petroleum mineral resources (in other words, you cannot say oil, natural gas, etc.) that humans currently take from the ocean. What can they be used for? (Be specific. Give details.) *Note: Discuss some uses of salt that are not common knowledge. In other words, if you only discuss flavoring and preserving food, then your answer is unsatisfactory.*

10. Give 3 examples of mineral resources that humans currently do not take from the ocean but may take from the ocean in the future. What can they be used for? (Be specific. Give details.)

11. Why might petroleum (e.g., oil & natural gas) be considered a "living" ocean resource?

Living Resources and Power from the Ocean

12. What is a fishery?

13. About how much of their protein do humans get by eating ocean organisms? (Cite the worldwide average. People in some countries consume more or less than others.)

14. Fishermen catch many fish that no one eats. What is the other major use for the worldwide catch?

15. Give examples of the living resources that humans take from the ocean aside from petroleum or organisms for food. (In other words, you cannot say "oil," "fish," "food," etc.) In other words, in what other ways are living organisms useful to us? (Be specific. Give details. For example, describe the kind of organism and what it does, has, or makes that is useful.)

16. How do we hope to use the ocean to generate electrical power in the future?