

OCEANS

Ocean water plays an indispensable role in supporting life. The great ocean basins hold about 300 million cubic miles of water. From this vast amount, about 80,000 cubic miles of water are sucked into the atmosphere each year by evaporation and returned by precipitation and drainage to the ocean. More than 24,000 cubic miles of rain descend annually upon the continents. This vast amount is required to replenish the lakes and streams, springs and water tables on which all flora and fauna are dependent. Thus, the hydrosphere permits organic existence. The hydrosphere has strange characteristics because water has properties unlike those of any other liquid. One anomaly is that water upon freezing expands by about 9 percent, whereas most liquids contract on cooling. For this reason, ice floats on water bodies instead of sinking to the bottom. If the ice sank, the hydrosphere would soon be frozen solidly, except for a thin layer of surface melt water during the summer season. Thus, all aquatic life would be destroyed and the interchange of warm and cold currents, which moderates climate, would be notably absent. Another outstanding characteristic of water is that water has a heat capacity which is the highest of all liquids and solids except ammonia. This characteristic enables the oceans to absorb and store vast quantities of heat, thereby often preventing climatic extremes. In addition, water dissolves more substances than any other liquid. It is this characteristic which helps make oceans a great storehouse for minerals which have been washed down from the continents. In several areas of the world these minerals are being commercially exploited. Solar evaporation of salt is widely practiced, potash is extracted from the Dead Sea, and magnesium is produced from sea water along the American Gulf Coast

Q1: The author's main purpose in this passage is to

A: illustrate the importance of conserving water

B: describe the properties and uses of water

C: compare water with other liquids

Q2: The phrase "this vast amount" in line 4 of paragraph 1 refers to:

A: 80,000 million cubic miles of water

B: 24,000 Square miles of rain

C: 24,000 cubic miles of rain

D: 300 million cubic miles of water

Q 3 : The word "replenish" in paragraph 1 can best be replaced by .

A) fill again

B) replace

C) evaporate

d) form

Q 4 : According to the passage, fish can survive in the oceans because .

a) evaporation and condensation create a water cycle

b) there are currents in the oceans

c) they do not need oxygen

d) ice floats

Q 4 Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a characteristic of water?

a) Water can absorb heat

b) Water is good solvent.

c) **Water contracts on cooling**

Q 5: According the passage, the hydrosphere is not

a) The part of the earth covered by water

b) Responsible for all forms of life.

c) **In danger of freezing over.**

d) A source of natural resources.

Q 6 : The author's tone in the passage can best be described as .

- a) Dispassionate
- b) Speculative
- c) Biased
- d) Dogmatic

Q 6 : Which of the following statements would be the most likely to begin the paragraph immediately following the passage?

- a) Water has the ability to erode land
- b) Drought and flooding are two types of disasters associates with water
- c) Another remarkably property of ice is its strength
- d) Magnesium is widely used in metallurgical processes

Q 7 : Which of the best described the word Exploited in this paragraph?

- a) Demoralized
- b) Passivity
- c) Failure

Q 8 : What is the meaning of Aquatic life in this passage?

- a) Surface life
- b) Life on earth
- c) Amphibious life
- d) Life without water

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