

Principle 6: Grades 3-5

Principle 6: The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.

Uses of the Ocean

A. The ocean provides basic support for all life, including human life.

A.1. The ocean is an important source of food for humans.

A.2. Food from the ocean includes organisms, such as fish, crab and oysters, as well as prepared products that contain organisms, such as algae.

See Principle 1: B1
See Principle 3: B

A.3. The fresh water that humans need is formed as a part of the water cycle when water evaporates from the ocean and returns to land as rain.

See Principle 7: A

A.4. Humans use the ocean as a source for minerals, energy resources and medicines.

See Principle 4: B1

A.5. Most of the oxygen humans breathe comes from photosynthetic organisms that live in the ocean.

See Principle 3: A2

A.6. Humans use the ocean for inspiration, recreation and discovery.

See Principle 3: A5

Where People Live

B. The ocean has always influenced where the majority of the human population lives.

B.1. The ocean has influenced the evolution of transportation throughout human history.

B.2. Major coastal cities grew out of ports, which supported the transport and trade of goods and resources.

B.3. People continue to live near the ocean because of access to resources, transportation, commerce, jobs, recreation, scenery, and moderate weather.

B.4. Living near the ocean exposes people to tsunamis, hurricanes and severe storms.

Human Impact on the Ocean

C. Humans impact the ocean in positive and negative ways.

C.1. The trash and pollutants people put into the environment affects the ocean and life in the ocean.

C.2. Putting chemical pollution into the ocean can poison fish and shellfish, and the people eating them.

C.3. Marine debris entangles ocean life, introduces chemical pollutants and can become a hazard to navigation.

C.4. Pollution from cars and factories contributes to global climate change.

C.6. Overfishing can lead to the extinction of species.

See Principle 7: B4

C.5. Ocean resources are finite and should be respected and cared for by people.

C.7. Individuals can take action to protect the ocean.

C.8. Individuals can help protect the ocean by picking up trash, riding their bikes, using public transportation and eating seafood that is not overfished.

C.10. Everyone can learn and influence other people about the wise use and protection of the ocean.

C.11. School clubs and afterschool groups can help educate and involve the community about the wise use and protection of the ocean.

C.9. Public knowledge and opinion can greatly affect the choices that people make about the ocean.

C.12. National and international laws define how we protect the ocean.

C.13. Laws create marine sanctuaries, reserves and marine protected areas that are intended to keep these ocean areas safe and healthy.