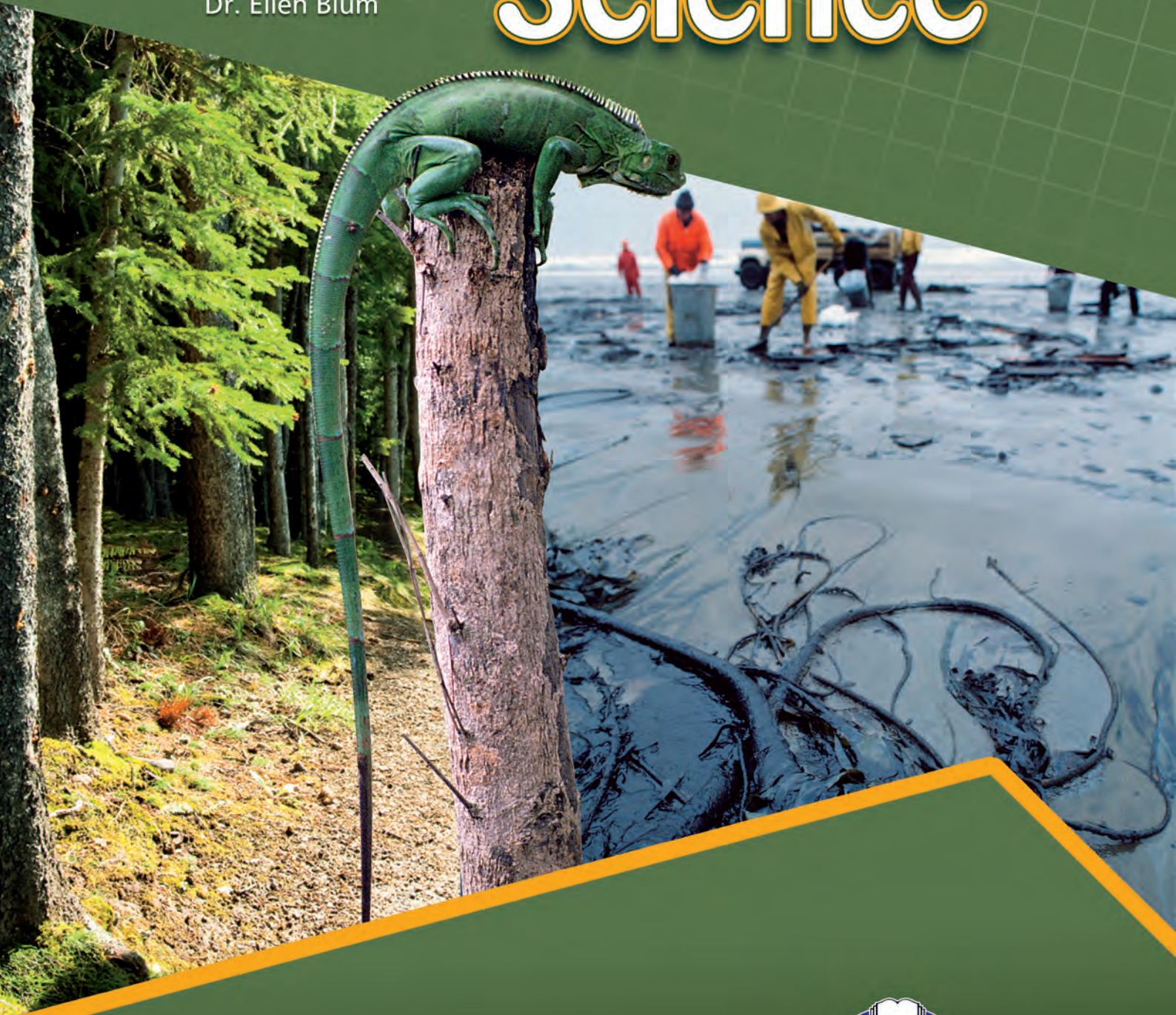


**CAREER  
PATHS**

# Environmental Science

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Express Publishing

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## 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



### 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**.

### 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.

- 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.

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