CAREER PATHS

Environmental Science

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Express Publishing

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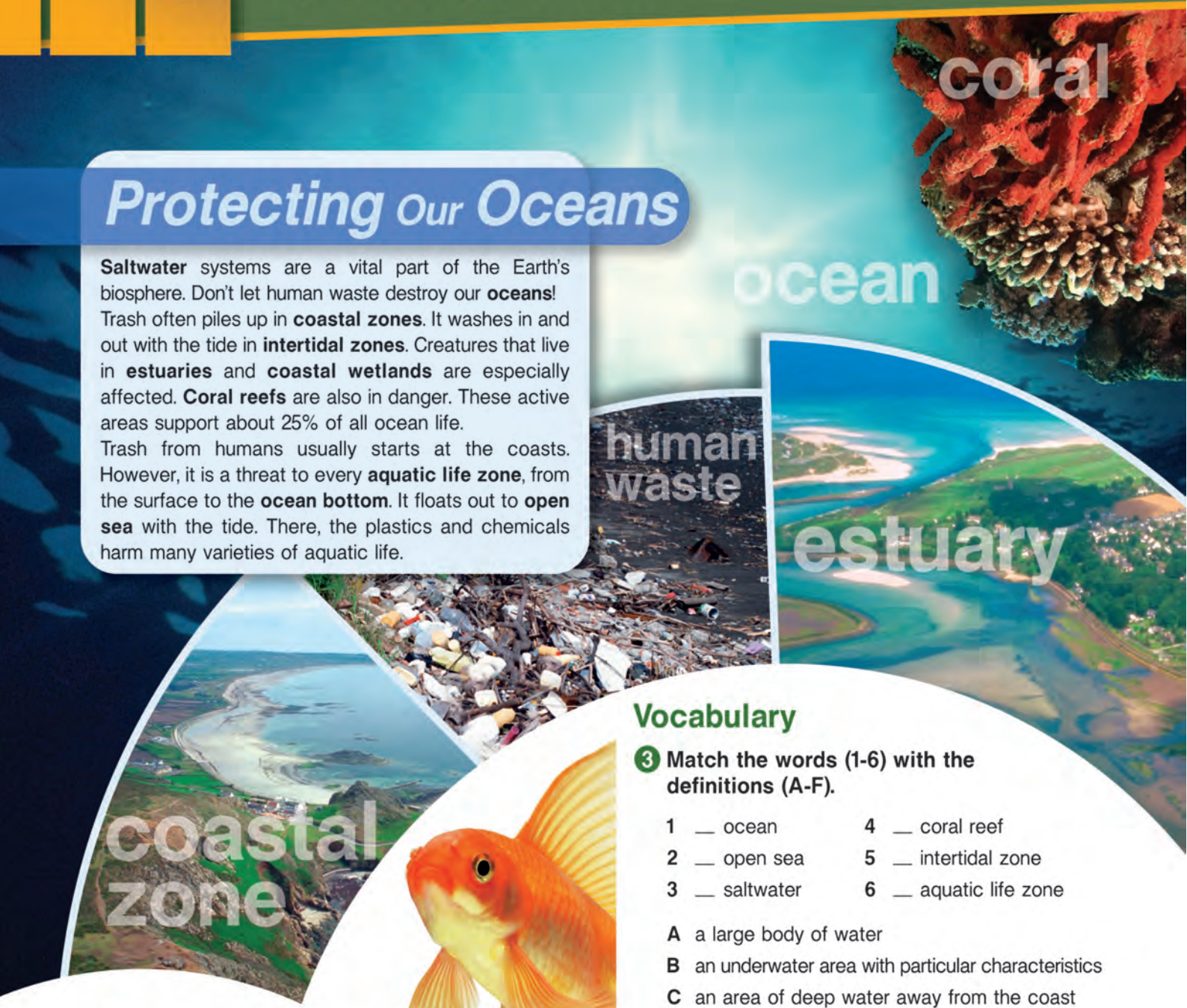

Protecting Our Oceans

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.

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
2 __ open sea
3 __ saltwater
4 __ coral reef
5 __ intertidal zone
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 _____

_____