

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Water Quality Degradation in the Ocean

Use the following online resources to answer the questions.

- National Geographic “Dead Zone” article: [http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/dead-zone/?ar\\_a=4&ar\\_r=3#page=1](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/dead-zone/?ar_a=4&ar_r=3#page=1)
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution “Harmful Algae” site: <http://www.whoi.edu/redtide>. This link is for the home page. The “Impacts” tab will also provide helpful information.

## Part 1. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

1. What are phytoplankton? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What are Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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3. What are some of the negative effects of HAB formation? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Part 2. Toxic Algae

4. Describe the relationship between HABs and toxic phytoplankton. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What is biomagnification? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Describe the relationship between HABs and shellfish poisoning. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Briefly describe one current event related to toxic algae *within* the United States. \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Briefly describe one current event related to toxic algae *outside of* the United States.

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## Part 3. Dead Zones

9. Describe the relationship between HABs and eutrophication, or nutrient loading.

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10. What is a dead zone? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Describe the relationship between HABs and hypoxia, or oxygen depletion. \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Briefly describe one water quality improvement success story *within* the United States.

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