

Why Exploring the Ocean is Mankind's Next Great Leap

Multiple Choice

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

Comprehension

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.

- _____ 1. According to the author, why is the descent of Walsh and Picard to the deepest part of the ocean “largely forgotten today”?
- A Other ocean explorers soon descended deeper.
 - B Walsh and Picard did not discover anything of value.
 - C The location of the Mariana Trench was too far away to be of interest.
 - D People were more interested in the race to the moon.
- _____ 2. Why does the author think that the time may now be right to focus on ocean research?
- A The space shuttle program has come to an end.
 - B There is nothing more to be learned from space research.
 - C Ocean research will cost less than the space program.
 - D Ocean researchers can learn from discoveries made in space.
- _____ 3. What evidence does Cousteau give to support his claim that “we’ve only dipped our toes in the water” of ocean exploration?
- A The ocean covers more than 70 percent of our planet.
 - B His grandfather co-invented the SCUBA system.
 - C We’ve explored only about 10 percent of the ocean.
 - D The ocean supports life as we know it.
- _____ 4. Why does Cousteau compare the ocean to “unopened presents under the tree”?
- A The ocean contains knowledge waiting to be discovered.
 - B People will be surprised at what the ocean reveals.
 - C Ocean exploration is like a gift from his father and grandfather.
 - D People do not appreciate the ocean as they should.
- _____ 5. Why does the author mention that the space shuttle program had “an estimated price tag of nearly \$200 billion”?
- A to suggest that the money was not well spent
 - B to suggest that the money might now be available for ocean research
 - C to suggest that the scientific advances were worth the cost
 - D to suggest that exploring the oceans will cost less

- _____ 6. What is Philippe Cousteau's main purpose for writing this commentary?
- A to tell stories about his father and grandfather
 - B to summarize the history of the space program
 - C to persuade readers of the importance of exploring the oceans
 - D to explain how people have polluted the oceans

Vocabulary

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word.

- _____ 7. What is a diplomat?
- A a person who leads a college or university
 - B a person appointed by a government to work with other governments
 - C a person hired to oversee the management of a company
 - D a person who starts a new business
- _____ 8. To sustain means to
- A make discoveries.
 - B disappear.
 - C create energy.
 - D remain in existence.
- _____ 9. A steward of the ocean's resources is someone who
- A wastes them.
 - B takes care of them.
 - C understands them.
 - D explores them.
- _____ 10. To exploit something is to use it
- A skillfully.
 - B frequently.
 - C carefully.
 - D selfishly.

Short Answer**Written Response**

Answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the commentary.

11. What is the author's attitude toward space research? Cite evidence to support your answer.
12. What does Cousteau mean when he says "we also have the opportunity to course correct" in our treatment of the oceans? Why does he believe this is so important?

Why Exploring the Ocean is Mankind's Next Great Leap Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

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|------------|--------|
| 1. ANS: D | PTS: 8 |
| 2. ANS: A | PTS: 8 |
| 3. ANS: C | PTS: 8 |
| 4. ANS: A | PTS: 8 |
| 5. ANS: B | PTS: 8 |
| 6. ANS: C | PTS: 8 |
| 7. ANS: B | PTS: 8 |
| 8. ANS: D | PTS: 8 |
| 9. ANS: B | PTS: 8 |
| 10. ANS: D | PTS: 8 |

SHORT ANSWER

11. ANS:
The author believes that space research, while important, has diverted attention and resources away from exploring the oceans. As evidence, he says that early exploration of the ocean's depths was "quickly overshadowed by the race to the moon." (lines 13–14). He cites the end of the space shuttle program as an opportunity to take the "next giant leap" into exploring the oceans (lines 26–28). Finally, he says, "While there is still much to learn and discover through space exploration, we also need to pay attention to our unexplored world here on earth" (lines 85–87).

PTS: 10

12. ANS:
He means that we can change the way we use the resources of the oceans and stop exploiting and polluting them. He believes it is important because "destroying our ocean resources is bad business with devastating consequences for the global economy and the health and sustainability of all creatures" (lines 77–80).

PTS: 10