

SALT OF THE SEA

Objective

The student will be able to interpret data from a pie graph.

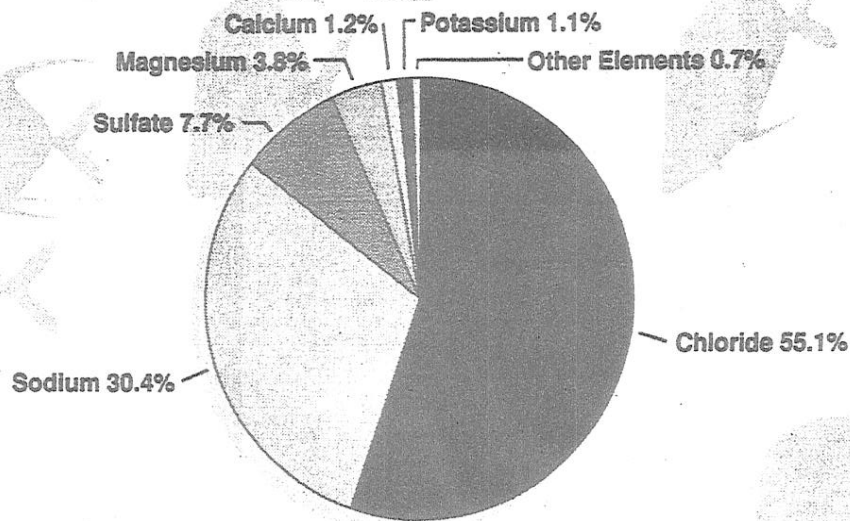
Vocabulary

parts per thousand
salinity

Background

Coral reefs are best developed in areas where the salinity of the water ranges from 35 to 38 parts per

thousand (ppt). Salinity is the measurement of dissolved salts and other dissolved materials in seawater. Most of the ocean's salinity results from sodium chloride. The majority of the salts and organic constituents of seawater were originally contained in rocks, soil, and decayed organic matter. As rain fell, it dissolved these materials and carried them into rivers and streams, and eventually, to the sea. Runoff contains not only salts, but also trace metals essential for marine plants and animals, as well as suspended food materials.



Exercises

Use the pie graph to determine the following.

What percent of seawater is made up of sulfate?

What percent of seawater is made up of calcium?

What percent of seawater is made up of sodium?

What percent of seawater is made up of chloride?

Which three constituents make up the smallest percentage of seawater?

Which two constituents make up the largest percentage of seawater?

What percent of seawater is made up of sodium, sulfate, and magnesium?

What percent of seawater is made up of chloride, potassium, and calcium?