

# Ocean Water

## as you read

### What You'll Learn

- **Identify** the origin of the water in Earth's oceans.
- **Explain** how dissolved salts and other substances get into seawater.
- **Describe** the composition of seawater.

### Why It's Important

Oceans are a reservoir of valuable food, energy, and mineral resources.



### Review Vocabulary

**resource:** a reserve source of supply, such as a material or mineral

### New Vocabulary

- basin
- salinity

## Importance of Oceans

Imagine yourself lying on a beach and listening to the waves gently roll onto shore. A warm breeze blows off the water, making it seem as if you're in a tropical paradise. It's easy to appreciate the oceans under these circumstances, but the oceans affect your life in other ways, too.

**Varied Resources** Oceans are important sources of food, energy, and minerals. **Figure 1** shows two examples of food resources collected from oceans. Energy sources such as oil and natural gas are found beneath the ocean floor. Oil wells often are drilled in shallow water. Mineral resources including copper and gold are mined in shallow waters as well. Approximately one-third of the world's table salt is extracted from seawater through the process of evaporation. Oceans also allow for the efficient transportation of goods. For example, millions of tons of oil, coal, and grains are shipped over the oceans each year.



**Reading Check** What resources come from oceans?

**Figure 1** People depend on the oceans for many resources.



Krill are tiny, shrimplike animals that live in the Antarctic Ocean. Some cultures use krill in noodles and rice cakes.



Kelp is a fast-growing seaweed that is a source of algin, used in making ice cream, salad dressing, medicines, and cosmetics.



**Reading Check**