



Name: _____ Date: _____

READING SCIENCE

Under the Sea

Lexile 820L

1 I love the ocean, and I enjoy doing more than looking at it. I like to get under the surface and swim with all of the amazing creatures that the ocean has to share.

2 To truly experience life underwater, I learned SCUBA, which stands for *Self-contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus*. That is a fancy way of saying that when you SCUBA, you have a tank of your own air so that you can breathe underwater. Since I have learned how to SCUBA, I have seen some really amazing things.

3 For example, when I was in Hawaii, I went on a dive in the crater of an extinct volcano. The top of the volcano had been eroded by waves, so the entire **volcano** was underwater. We **descended** into the crater to a depth of about 65 feet. We saw small octopi floating through the water and sea cucumbers on the crater's floor. Sea cucumbers are not really vegetables! They are animals that look like a cucumber because they have dark, cylindrical bodies.

4 The highlight of that dive was the sight of my first shark. Before the dive, the guide had taught us a signal to use if we saw a shark. I thought he was just kidding, so I did not really pay attention. When I saw that shark, I was sorry I had not listened! I screamed into my regulator. A regulator is the device that controls the flow of air from the tank. Luckily, sound travels very well in water, so my scream got everyone's attention. The guide swam up to the shark, waved his arms, hollered into his regulator, and chased the shark away. It turns out that it was a nurse shark. They tend to leave divers alone. Luckily, we really were not in danger.

5 I have seen many awe-inspiring things underwater: manta rays, eels, and even a few more sharks. The ocean can be a dangerous place for humans who do not respect it. Still, I have always felt that the ocean is my friend. SCUBA diving has led me to believe that we must take care of the ocean. Not only have I seen many beautiful things, but I have also seen the ways that we harm the ocean. For example, I have seen plastic bags and bottles floating in the ocean. Those are things that humans have thrown away and which are now polluting the water.



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Continued

- 6 Why should we protect the ocean? Well, as I have seen, the ocean harbors many fascinating creatures. It is also important for our survival.
- 7 The ocean provides humans with the water we need to live. The ocean is the largest body of water on planet Earth. It covers about 72% of the planet. You might say, “How does it help us live?” Ocean water is salty. We need fresh water. When the Sun’s energy heats the surface of the ocean and the water evaporates, the salt stays in the ocean while fresh water vapor rises. Later, that water vapor travels over land and becomes the precipitation you and I see. So, even though the ocean is salty, it still provides the fresh water that living things need to stay alive.
- 8 I have learned that the ocean is my friend. It takes care of me by providing me with water and giving me a place to swim and dive. I want to be able to take care of the ocean by respecting it and telling people about how wonderful it is.

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- 1 Which choice best summarizes the passage?
- A Since I have learned how to SCUBA, I have seen some really amazing things. For example, when I was in Hawaii, I went on a dive in the crater of an extinct volcano.
 - B The ocean provides humans with the water we need to live. The ocean is the largest body of water on planet Earth.
 - C I like to get under the surface and swim with all of the amazing creatures that the ocean has to share. To truly experience life underwater, I learned SCUBA, which stands for *Self-contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus*.
 - D I explored the ocean through SCUBA and learned that the ocean is my friend. The ocean takes care of me, and I want to take care of the ocean by respecting it and telling people about how wonderful it is.
- 2 The word **descended** means: (paragraph 3)
- A Screamed
 - B Traveled downward
 - C Learned to SCUBA
 - D Swam in a crater
- 3 Which of the following is the author's purpose?
- A Teach the reader how to dive
 - B Inform the reader about the ocean
 - C Tell the author's personal experiences
 - D Teach the water cycle

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- 4** Why do you think the author screamed when she saw the shark?
- A** The shark was swimming toward her.
 - B** The shark looked like it was going to bite the other divers.
 - C** Screaming was the signal her guide taught her.
 - D** She was happy to see a shark.
- 5** Which statement is NOT true about how the ocean's water becomes the water we use to survive?
- A** The sun causes the ocean's water to evaporate.
 - B** Precipitation first may have been water in the ocean.
 - C** Salt cannot evaporate.
 - D** Heat slows evaporation.