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Reading Comprehension Passage & Questions

- ✓ Over 115 Readings! Covers all Science Topics
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Bioaccumulation and Biomagnification: How they work and why they're so dangerous



All animals need the vitamins and minerals they get from food every day. But sometimes bad things end up in our bodies instead. This is because of **bioaccumulation** (by-oh-ah-kyou-myou-lay-shun). It happens because of pollution. Poison is eaten by an animal. That poison then stays inside the body of the animal in large amounts.

What causes it?

Pollution is when harmful things end up in our environment. Pollution is mostly caused by humans. Humans cause pollution when we use pesticides and from our factories and cars. Pollutants will end up in rivers, lakes, and creeks. Tiny animals called plankton end up eating the pollutants. These animals can only be seen with a microscope. The tiny plankton cannot digest the poison and it gets stuck in their



Pollution is mostly caused by humans.

Ecobottle Sample

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This may not harm animals at the bottom of the food chain. They can only eat very little of the poison. But the higher up the chain you go, the more harmful it becomes. In fact, at each level, the poison becomes 10 times more harmful! So, the animals at the top of the chain are harmed the most. The amount of poison grows every time it passes up the food chain. This is called **biomagnification** (by-oh-mag-ni-fi-kay-shun).



Chemical concentrations can increase up the food chain and end up in our food.

[How does this affect our health?](#)

Ecobottle Sample

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[Putting it all together](#)

This is a summary of how these things happen:

- Water gets polluted
- Tiny animals living in the polluted water eat some of that pollution
- They store the pollutants because they cannot digest them
- They are eaten by larger animals, which can eat them in large numbers
- The larger animals end up with more poison in their bodies
- The animal that is highest in the food chain will be harmed the most by pollutants.



The animal that is highest in the food chain will be harmed the most by pollutants.

Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What is
2. When pollutants enter the water, which group of living things eats them first?
3. Why
4. What is bioaccumulation?
5. Why
6. Give
7. Summarize how biomagnification and bioaccumulation take place.

Extension Questions:

8. Create a clear and detailed diagram that shows how bioaccumulation and biomagnification work within an ecosystem. Be colorful and include text that describes what the viewer is looking at.
9. DDT is an

Ecobottle Sample



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References

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