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—Middle School Librarian, Round Rock, TX, May 2010

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—*Library Journal*, April 2008

Biofuels

Before Filling Up the Tank

The Ins and Outs of Bioethanol

1 Harvesting: Corn is harvested from the field.

2 Processing: The corn is cleaned and broken into small pieces.

3 Fermentation: The corn is mixed with water and yeast to produce ethanol.

4 Distillation: The ethanol is separated from the water.

5 Denaturation: The ethanol is treated with a chemical to make it safe for use as a fuel.

6 Blending: The ethanol is mixed with gasoline.

7 Distribution: The biofuel is transported to gas stations.

8 Use: The biofuel is used in cars and trucks.

9 Recycling: The waste from the process is recycled.

100 The value of the efficiency of bioethanol is a factor of 100 times that of fossil fuels.

Life in the Oceans

The first marine species emerged more than one billion years ago. Since then, life in the oceans has become so aggressively diverse that it is a vast, diverse ecosystem. The oceans can be divided into horizontal regions that correspond to polar, temperate, and tropical latitudes and also vertically separated zones, or layers, that correspond to different depths. The deepest layer, the benthic zone, is the least understood. Some parts of the ocean have their own particular, or endemic, species.

Geographic Zones

Changes in Temperature

Underwater Exploration

Bioluminescence

Hydrostatic Pressure

Arctic

Tropical Swells

Bioluminescence

Short yet detailed captions explain each topic in full.

Students will be captivated by the engaging illustrations on every page—18,000 in all.

One of “Twenty Best Bets for Student Researchers”

—*Booklist*, September 2009



[Artwork from the "Plants, Algae, and Fungi" volume]

Rooted Underwater Plants

The entire plant is submerged. The small root system serves only to anchor the plant since the stem can directly absorb water, carbon dioxide, and minerals. These plants are often found in flowing water. The submerged stems have no system of support—the water holds up the plant.

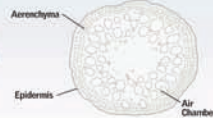
HORNWORT
Charophyta sp.
 This plant has an abundance of fine leaves that form a conical structure on each stem.

Aquatic but Modern

The evolutionary history of plants began in water environments. They later conquered land by means of structures such as roots. Modern aquatic plants are not a primitive group, however. On the contrary, they have returned to the water environment by acquiring highly specialized organs and tissues. For example, some tissues have air pockets that enable the plant to float.

Aerenchyma

is always found in floating organisms. This tissue has an extensive system of intercellular spaces through which gases are diffused.



Submerged or Free

Some underwater plants are free, without roots, but with developed stalks and divided leaves. Other floating plants have a rosette shape and leaves modified for floating; they have well-developed roots with root caps but without absorber hairs. The roots help the plant to stay balanced on top of the water.

KNOTWEED
Polygonum sp.
 This aquatic plant grows in marshy vegetation.

ELGRASS
Vallisneria sp.
 This oxygenating plant is found in ponds and aquariums.