



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION



Site 1 (x = one dead oyster)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
1											
2	X									X	
3											
4					X		X				
5		X				X					
6						X	X				
7							X	X			
8				X	X	X					
9	X						X			X	
10								X			
11			X					X			
12				X		X	X	X	X		
13		X			X						
14							X	X	X		
15											
16						X					X
17				X						X	
18											
19					X		X				
20		X				X		X			
21							X				
22						X					
23							X			X	
24			X			X	X		X		
25				X				X			
26					X	X					
27								X			
28						X			X		
29											
31											
32						X	X	X	X		X
33				X	X	X					
34							X				
35							X				
36								X	X	X	
37						X		X		X	
38	X				X		X				
39											X
40				X					X		
41								X			
42		X	X								
43							X				
44						X					
45					X		X				
46			X								
47					X						
48							X				
49			X		X	X					
50				X			X				
TOTAL											





Site 2 (x = one dead oyster)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
1											
2		X									
3		X	X			X					
4		X		X	X		X	X			
5					X	X	X		X		
6		X			X		X	X			
7	X	X	X				X				
8										X	
9		X		X		X		X	X		X
10		X			X		X			X	
11		X									
12									X		
13		X		X						X	
14						X	X				
15		X									
16		X		X	X		X				
17											
18		X			X	X					X
19		X			X		X				
20	X	X						X			
21			X				X			X	
22						X		X			
23		X									
24		X					X				
25		X			X			X			
26		X	X				X				
27						X	X				
28						X		X	X		
29		X		X			X				
31		X				X		X			
32		X						X		X	
33		X					X	X	X		
34		X				X					
35			X	X	X		X				
36	X	X									
37					X		X				X
38		X					X			X	
39		X	X			X					
40						X					
TOTAL											





Questions:



1. For both sites, calculate the total number of oysters that have died each month.
2. For both sites calculate the percentage of oysters that died in February, May, July and October.

Site 1:

February

May

July

October

Site 2:

February

May

July

October

3. Compare both sites and write down that they have in common and how they are different.
4. Can you think of reasons why the number of dead oysters' changes over the months?
5. Which site is the healthier site and why?



Totals for question 1:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Site 1	3	4	5	7	10	15	18	12	7	6	3
Site 2	3	26	6	6	10	13	17	10	5	6	3

Other answers:

2. Feb: **8%** May: **20%** July: **36%** October: **12%**
Feb: **65%** May: **25%** July: **42.5%** October: **15%**
3. They both show higher mortality in the summer. One site has a significantly higher mortality rate in February than the other (site 2).
4. Increased mortality rates among oyster populations can be observed during summer because this is when they spawn (when they release their eggs!). Post-spawning mortality can happen because oysters put a lot of energy into this process! For February, the high mortality rate could represent a pollution event, a cold snap or an increased amount of freshwater flowing into marine environments following periods of heavy rainfall.
5. Site 1 is healthier overall – it has a lower percentage of deaths.



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Graphics by:



PLANETARI