

8 Water pollution and biomagnification – Part 1 — Answers

Answers

Work through these after you have tried the questions yourself.

2.1 fertilizer adds nutrients to the water; algae bloom; the algae die and are decomposed by bacteria; the bacteria use up the oxygen, so fish suffocate.

2.2 warm water holds less dissolved oxygen, so there is less for fish and other aquatic life.

2.3 bioaccumulation is build-up within one organism over its life; biomagnification is the increase in concentration moving up the food chain.

2.4 $\frac{40}{0.02} = 2000$ times.

2.5 the toxin concentrates at each step up the food chain, so the animal at the top accumulates the highest level of all.