

## Science Time

### Program Content for November 18, 2015

Read the article “**Alarm rises over huge, persistent toxic algae on West Coast**” on page A1 of the Monday, November 16, 2015 edition of The Seattle Times.

**Pre-reading and Vocabulary:** Define each term and then use it in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding.

1. neurotoxin
2. seizure
3. phytoplankton
4. unprecedented

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. What is Pseudo-nitzschia and what does it produce?
2. Describe the location of the toxic algae bloom mentioned in this article.
3. What impact has the algae bloom had on fisheries?
4. What substance produced by the Pseudo-nitzschia algae is found in crabs?
5. How has this year’s algal bloom differed from algal blooms in past years?
6. Why does the sample of animals detected with neurotoxin only represent a fraction of the total number of animals affected by the neurotoxin?
7. What impact can the neurotoxin produced by algae have on people?
8. What is algae?
9. What is and what caused, “the blob” mentioned in this article?
10. Besides the algae bloom; what other events has, “the blob,” been connected to?

### **Prompts and Extensions**

1. Construct a food chain utilizing the organisms mentioned in the article that you just read. When finished you will have traced the path for how the neurotoxin produced by algae can enter and “move-up” the food chain. Hint: Start your food chain with ‘Pseudo-nitzschia algae’
2. Dig deeper into The Seattle Times’s coverage of, “the blob” and the algae bloom it has been linked to. Find past articles and other resources [here](#).
3. In recent months the Seattle Times completed a special report on another threat to the Pacific, ocean acidification. View the multimedia and other resources about this topic [here](#).
4. It is strongly suggested that climate change is leading to increased ocean temperatures in the Pacific and the rest of the world’s oceans. Learn more about climate change and action steps that you can take to reduce its impact [here](#).

Science Time is posted to the Web on Wednesdays. Please share this NIE Science Time program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register

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