**Objective**
The student will be able to interpret data from a pie graph.

**Vocabulary**
parts per thousand
salinity

**Background**
Coral reefs are best developed in areas where the salinity of the water ranges from 35 to 38 parts per thousand (ppt). Salinity is the measurement of dissolved salts and other dissolved materials in seawater. Most of the ocean’s salinity results from sodium chloride. The majority of the salts and organic constituents of seawater were originally contained in rocks, soil, and decayed organic matter. As rain fell, it dissolved these materials and carried them into rivers and streams, and eventually, to the sea. Runoff contains not only salts, but also trace metals essential for marine plants and animals, as well as suspended food materials.

![Pie chart showing the percentage of different elements in seawater]

**Exercises**
Use the pie graph to determine the following.

- Which three constituents make up the smallest percentage of seawater?
- What percent of seawater is made up of sulfate?
- Which two constituents make up the largest percentage of seawater?
- What percent of seawater is made up of calcium?
- What percent of seawater is made up of sodium?
- What percent of seawater is made up of chloride?
- What percent of seawater is made up of sodium, sulfate, and magnesium?
- What percent of seawater is made up of postassium, and calcium?