What are some of the issues the world faces today?

Food Production

What are some of the issues around growing food today?

Problems Around Food Production

- So much land is being used to raise cattle that there is not enough land to grow crops
- ► Buildings, cities etc. are covering growing land with concrete.
- The world population is growing so more food is needed to feed the growing population.

What do plants need to grow?

- ▶ Water
- **►** Light
- Food/Nutrients (minerals from soil)
- Air
- ► Structural Support

So, if we don't have enough soil to grow plants what could we do?

Hydroponics

Does anyone know what that means?

Hydroponics

Hydro comes from the Greek word which means water

Ponos means labour or work

So Hydroponics means using water do to the work



So, how does the plant get what is necessary to grow?

► Hydroponics is a method of growing plants in water without soil. The water must be enriched with nutrients and the plants need some type of inert medium to support the root system.



History

- Hydroponics is the growing of plants without soil.
- Ancient civilizations have applied the principles of hydroponics from the floating Aztec gardens to the hanging gardens of Babylon, as well as hieroglyphic evidence of hydroponic plant cultivation in ancient Egypt.



Fig. 2. Hanging gardens of Babylon. N.d. Purple "O" Purple. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 Nov. 2011



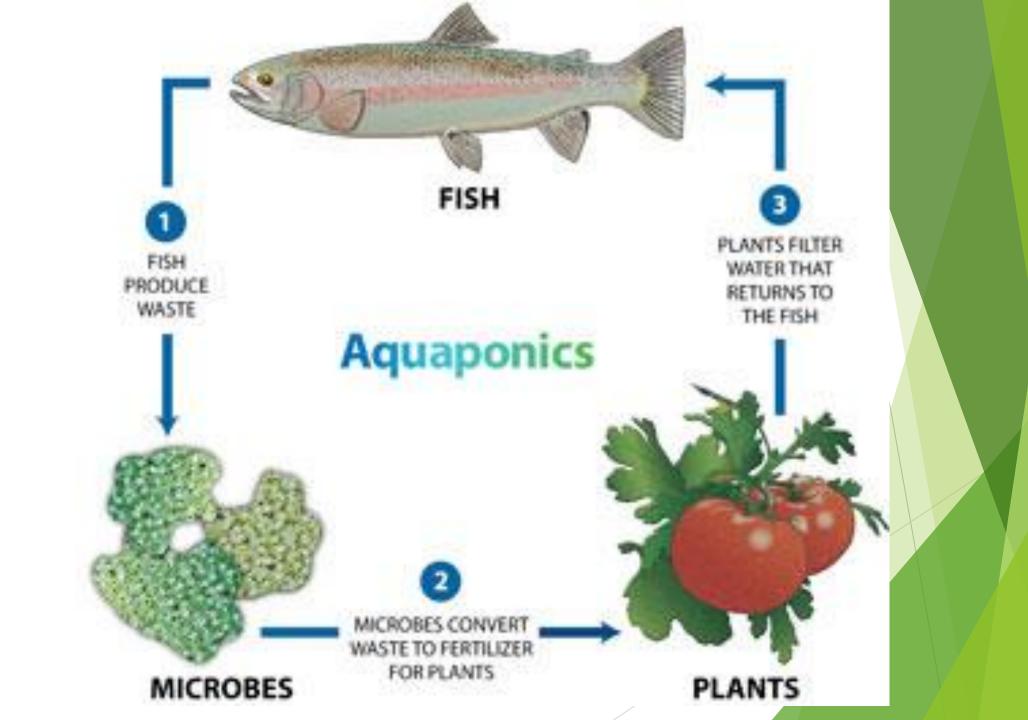
- ➤ To stop the water from growing stagnant and green, the water travels along the tubes so that it is constantly moving.
- Fertilizers are added at one end and the waste water is disposed of at the other end.
- Do you see any problems with this system?





How might aquaponics solve this problem? Look carefully at the picture.





HYDROPONICS



No Soil

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Fast Growth

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Less pesticide use

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Water-Saving

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Higher Yields

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Footnotes

Istockphoto.com/photos/hydroponics