



Scuba diving is a popular pastime. *Scuba* is an acronym it stands for

“**s**elf-**c**ontained **u**nderwater **b**reathing **a**pparatus.” In the fifteenth century,

Leonardo da Vinci designed an underwater diving suit. Functional equipment

not developed until much later. The eighteenth century brought practical

devices for breathing under water. Such as diving suits and diving bells.

Wearing these suits, divers could breathe under water, their mobility was

limited. The twentieth century had Jacques Cousteau and Émile Gagnan to

solve the problem. Perfected the aqualung. The aqualung is a cylinder of compressed air, it is worn on the back and connected to a mouthpiece. With an

aqualung, divers have both air and mobility. Since 71 percent of the earth’s

surface is covered by oceans. Scuba diving opened up a whole new world.