

The Layers of the Ocean

Ocean Layers

Oceans cover two thirds of our Earth. The ocean is deeper in some places than others. We call these different depths, **layers**. Each layer is special, with different animals and plants living there.



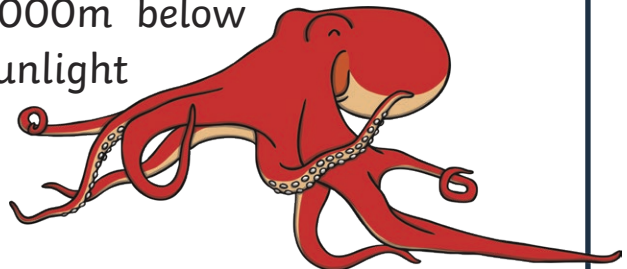
The Sunlight Zone

The Sunlight Zone is up to 200m below the surface of the ocean. Sunlight can reach this layer. Most of all, ocean animals and plants live here. The water is warm and both humans and fish swim here.



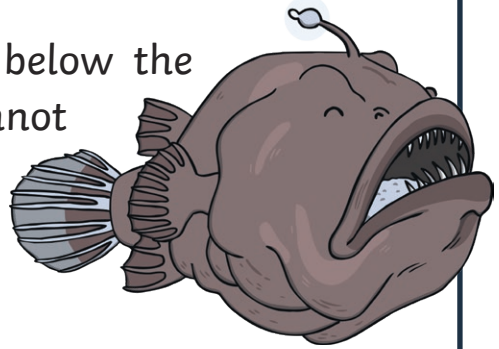
The Twilight Zone

The Twilight Zone is up to 1000m below the surface of the ocean. The sunlight cannot reach this layer so it is very dark. Animals that live here often have big eyes to help them see.

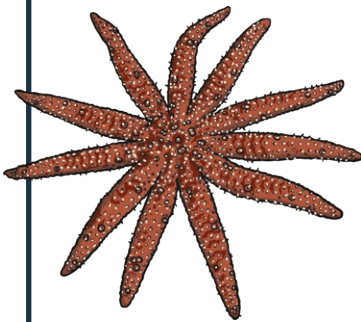


The Midnight Zone

The Midnight Zone is up to 4000m below the surface of the ocean. Sunlight cannot reach this layer, which means it is pitch black. Many animals that live here make their own light, such as lanternfish.



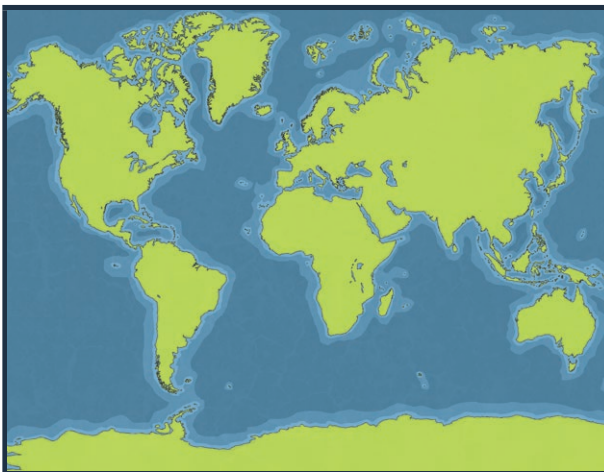
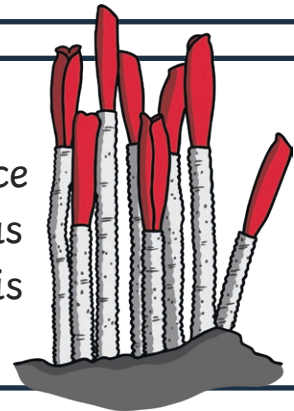
The Abyss



The Abyss is up to 6000m below the surface of the ocean. Sunlight cannot reach this level at all and the water is near freezing. Only a few animals can live here, such as sea stars and crabs.

The Trench

The Trench is up to 11,000m below the surface of the ocean. The Trench is also known as the ocean floor. The temperature here is near freezing.



Did You Know?

The deepest part of the ocean is in the Mariana Trench. It is almost 11,000m deep!

Questions

1. How much of the Earth do oceans cover? Tick **one**.

- ☐ one third
- ☐ two thirds
- ☐ half

2. Number these ocean layers in order of how **deep** they are. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ The Twilight Zone
- ☒ 1 The Sunlight Zone
- ☐ The Midnight Zone
- ☐ The Abyss

3. Draw lines to match the sentences to the ocean layers they describe.

Only a few animals can live here.

The Sunlight Zone

Humans can swim here.

The Trench

This layer is also called the ocean floor.

The Abyss

4. Fill in the missing word.

In the Midnight Zone it is pitch _____.

5. Why do animals that live in the Twilight Zone often have big eyes?
