

The Layers of the Ocean

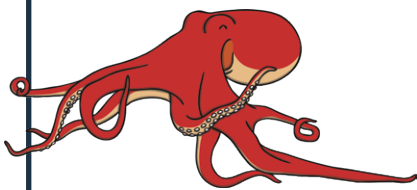
Ocean Layers

There are five layers of the ocean. Read on to find out how they are all different...



The Sunlight Zone

- Sunlight can reach this layer.
- The water is **warm**.
- **Lots** of animals and plants live here.
- You can swim here.

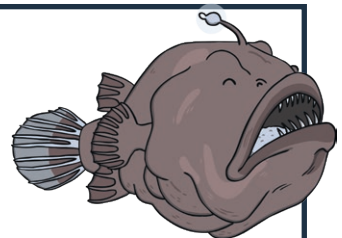


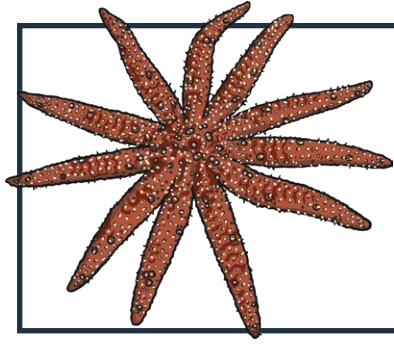
The Twilight Zone

- Sunlight can't get to this layer so it is very dark.
- Animals that live here have big eyes.

The Midnight Zone

- No sunlight can get to this layer so it is black.
- Animals that live here make their own light.



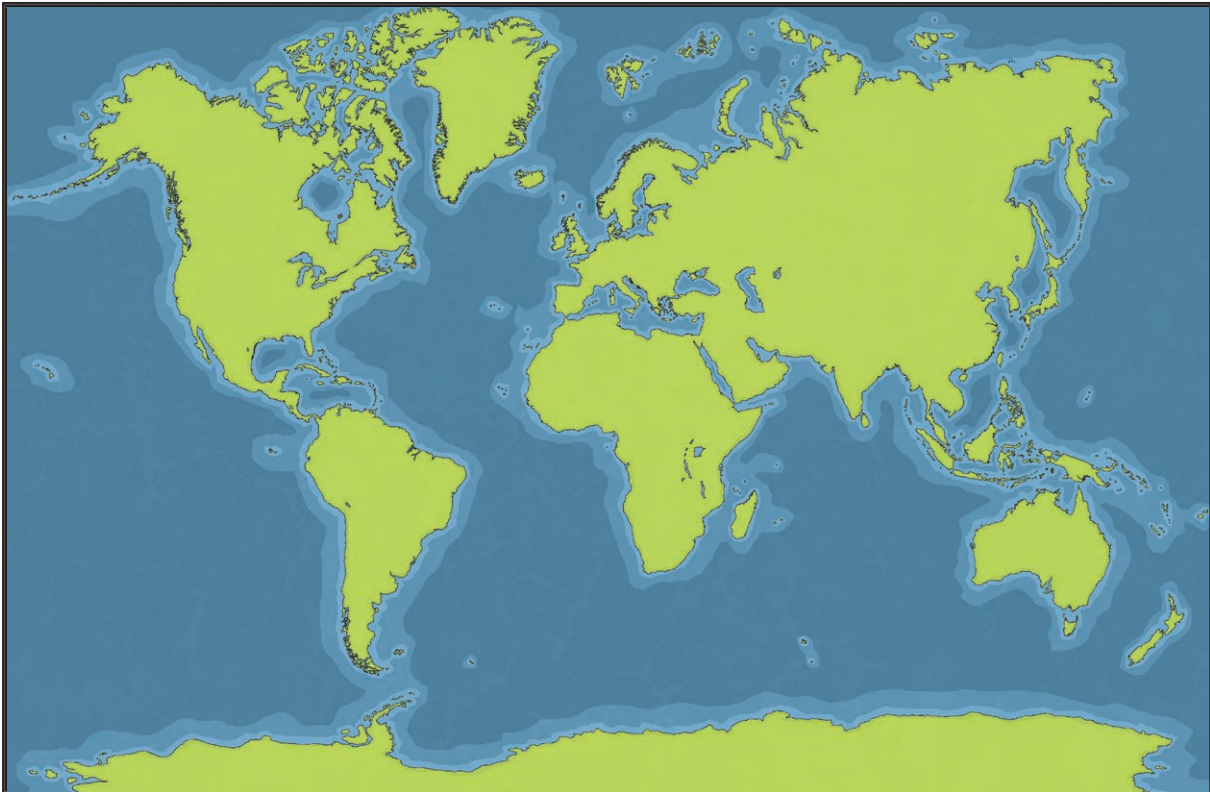
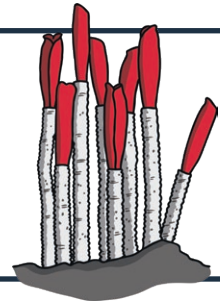


The Abyss

- No sunlight can get to this layer so it is pitch black.
- Only a few animals can live here.

The Trench

- The Trench is also called the **ocean floor**.
- It is freezing cold here.



Did You Know...?

More of the Earth is covered by oceans than by land!

Questions

1. How many layers of the ocean are there? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ four
 - ☐ five
 - ☐ six
2. Which layer is **warm**? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ The Sunlight Zone
 - ☐ The Twilight Zone
 - ☐ The Midnight Zone
3. What can you find **lots** of in the Sunlight Zone? Tick **two**.
 - ☐ animals
 - ☐ people
 - ☐ plants
4. Which layer is also called the **ocean floor**? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ The Midnight Zone
 - ☐ The Abyss
 - ☐ The Trench
5. **In the Abyss it is pitch _____**. Tick **one** to finish the sentence.
 - ☐ white
 - ☐ green
 - ☐ black

Answers

1. How many layers of the ocean are there? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ four
 - ☒ five
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2. Which layer is **warm**? Tick **one**.
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 - ☒ The Trench
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 - ☐ white
 - ☐ green
 - ☒ black

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.



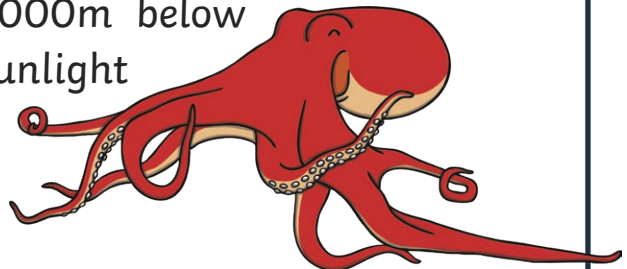
The Sunlight Zone

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.



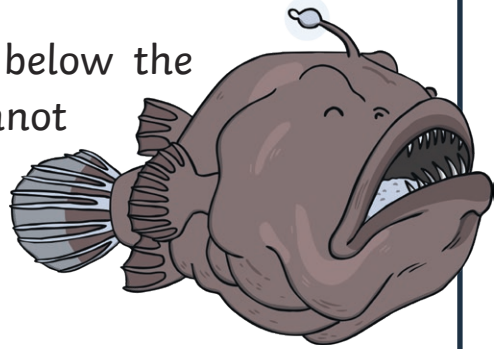
The Twilight Zone

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.

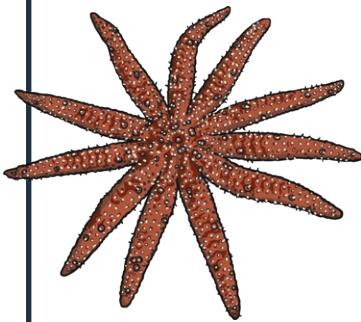


The Midnight Zone

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.



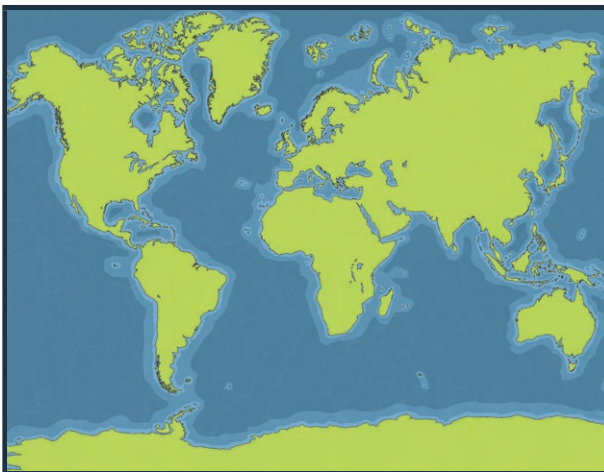
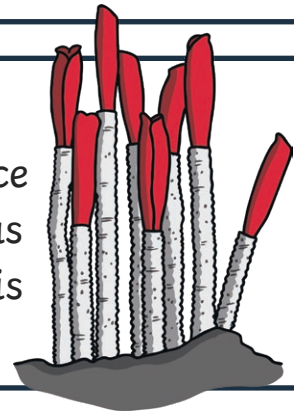
The Abyss



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?

Answers

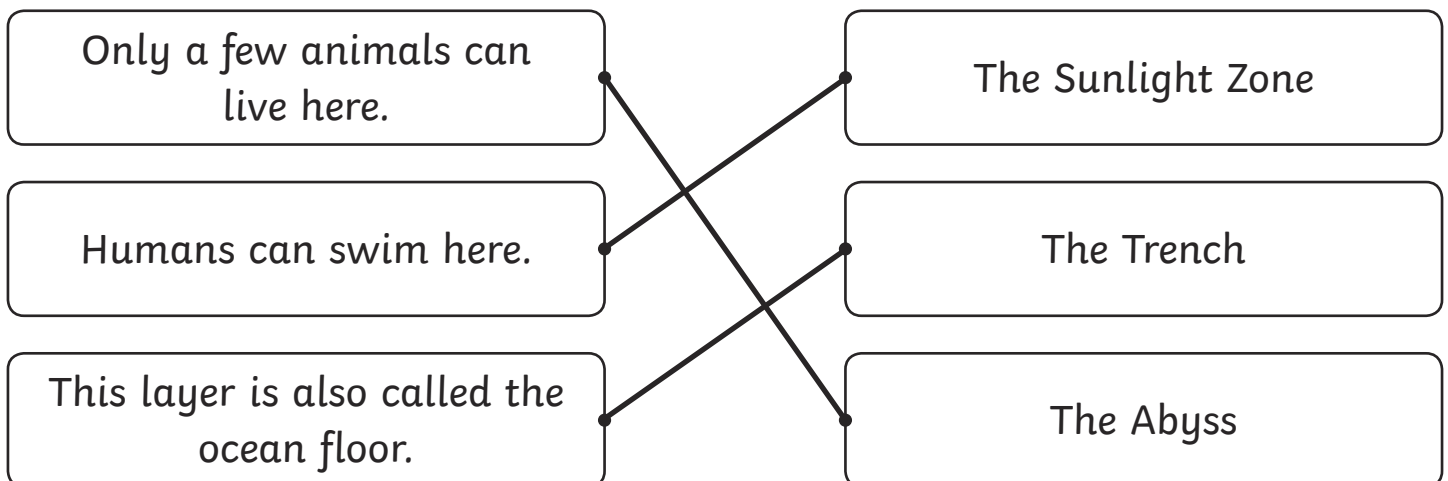
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- ☐ one third
- ☒ **two thirds**
- ☐ half

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- The Twilight Zone
- The Sunlight Zone
- The Midnight Zone
- The Abyss

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



4. Fill in the missing word.

In the Midnight Zone it is pitch **black**.

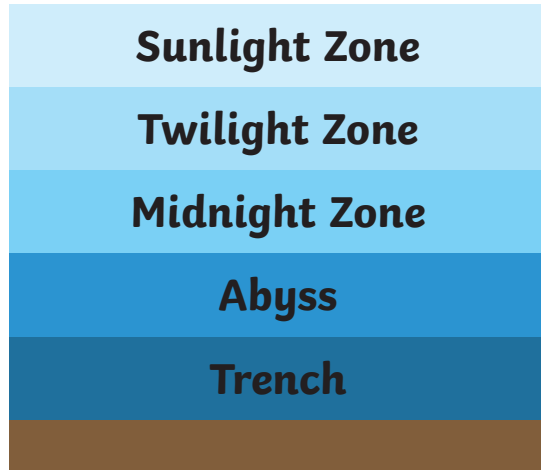
5. Why do animals that live in the Twilight Zone often have big eyes?

Animals that live in the Twilight Zone often have big eyes to help them see.

The Layers of the Ocean

Ocean Layers

Oceans cover two thirds of our Earth. There are five main oceans: the Arctic Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Southern Ocean.



Ocean Layers

The ocean is deeper in some places than others. We call these different depths **layers**. Each layer has its own characteristics and unique set of animals which live there. Read on to find out about the different layers...

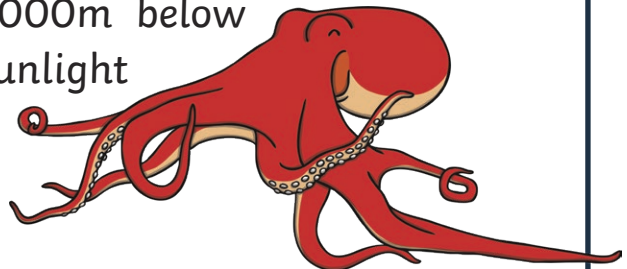
The Sunlight Zone



The Sunlight Zone is up to 200m below the surface of the ocean. Sunlight can reach this layer. Most of all ocean life is found here and many plants, such as seaweed, live here. The water is warm because of the sun. Both humans and fish play and explore here.

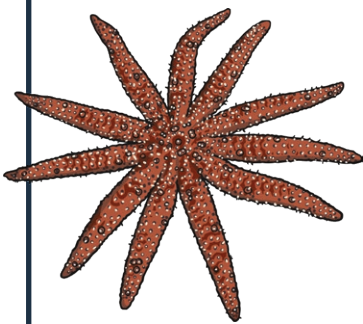
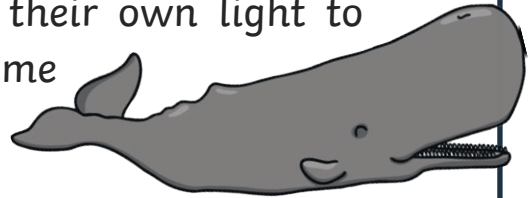
The Twilight Zone

The Twilight Zone is up to 1000m below the surface of the ocean. The sunlight cannot reach this layer so it is very dark. Creatures that live here often have large 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 creatures make their own light to help them to hunt their prey. Some creatures dive to these depths to hunt, for example, the sperm whale.

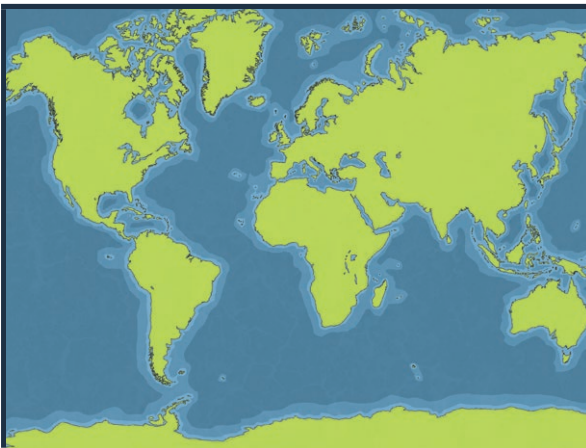
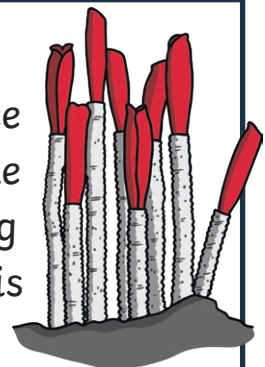


The Abyss

The Abyss is up to 6000m below the surface of the ocean. The sunlight cannot reach this level at all and water in this layer is near freezing. Very few creatures live here, mainly invertebrates, such as sea stars.

The Trench

The Trench is up to 11,000m below the surface of the ocean. The Trench is also known as the ocean floor. This zone can only be explored using special scientific equipment. The temperature is near freezing.



Did You Know?

The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest of all the oceans. It is so deep in places that the world's tallest mountain, Everest, would sink without a trace!

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, with 1 being the closest to the surface.

- ☐ The Twilight Zone
- ☐ The Sunlight Zone
- ☐ The Midnight Zone
- ☐ The Trench
- ☐ The Abyss

3. Fill in the missing words.

Many creatures in the _____ Zone make their own light to help them to _____ their prey.

4. Find and copy **two** adjectives used to describe equipment.

5. Which is the largest and deepest of the oceans?

6. Which ocean layer would you most like to explore and why? Give **two** reasons for your answer.

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, with 1 being the closest to the surface.

- The Twilight Zone
- The Sunlight Zone
- The Midnight Zone
- The Trench
- The Abyss

3. Fill in the missing words.

Many creatures in the **Midnight** Zone make their own light to help them to **hunt** their prey.

4. Find and copy **two** adjectives used to describe equipment.

special scientific

5. Which is the largest and deepest of the oceans?

The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest of all the oceans.

6. Which ocean layer would you most like to explore and why? Give **two** reasons for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The ocean layer I would most like to explore is the Midnight Zone because it would be dark and spooky. I would like to see whales hunting and creatures that make their own light.