

Deep Sea

Five Fast Facts:

- 1. Below the sunlit layers in the ocean, almost 3 miles down is the deep ocean, where sunlight does not penetrate. This is known as an *aphotic* (literally, "no-light") zone.
- 2. The temperature of the deep sea hovers around freezing all year round it does not experience any seasonal changes.
- 3. The pressure is so great in the deep sea that the fish that live there do not have an air bladder (it would simply collapse under the immense pressure).
- 4. A great diversity of life exists in the deep sea, from invertebrates (such as corals, jellyfish, cephalopods, giant tube worms, and crustaceans) to vertebrates (including the anglerfish, flashlight fish, deep sea eel, and the lantern shark).
- 5. The deepest known point on Earth is the Challenger Deep, found in the Mariana Trench. It is almost 7 miles deep and has been visited by only three people in manned submersibles (small underwater vehicles designed for exploration).

Food for Thought:

1. What special adaptations do organisms need to survive in the deep sea?

2. How much *don't* we know about the deep sea? In other words, what mysteries might the deep sea reveal to us with further exploration?

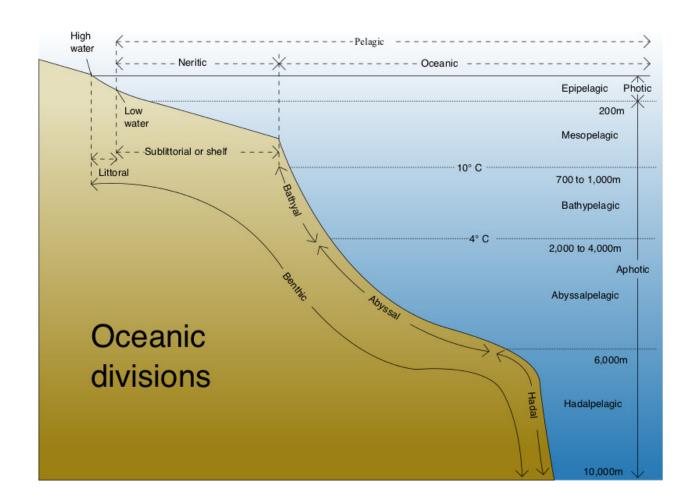


Activities to do with your kids:

 Ocean Zoning - Over time, create a global account of the different types of ocean zones and the creatures found in them.

They may do this several ways: creating a book, a map, a model globe, a video, etc.

- Ocean Zones include:
 - Photic sunlit
 - Aphotic no sun
 - Epipelagic
 - Mesopelagic
 - Bathypelagic
 - Abyssalpelagic
 - Hadalpelagic



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