

## Write To Learn

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm learning from:

\_\_\_\_\_

I'm learning from:

\_\_\_\_\_

I see:

I know:

I hear:

I notice:

I wonder:

I connect:

I'm learning from:

I remember:

Something new is:

I answered:

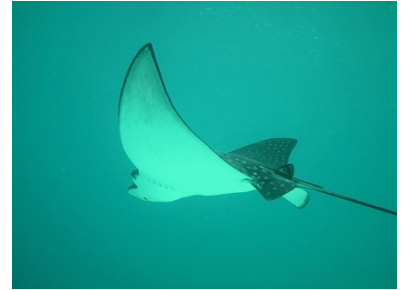
I have learned about:

Key points in my own words:

I will use what I learned when/by:

I would still like to investigate:

## **Epipelagic Zone Sunlight Zone Surface- 200 Meters/660 Feet**



The top layer of the ocean closest to the surface is called the Epipelagic Zone or the sunlight zone. This zone gets the most amount of natural light from the sun making it the ocean's warmest layer. Plant life also grows in this layer because it receives enough light to photosynthesize. One unique example of marine animal that gets its food both from the sea and from the sun is coral reef. The reef might appear to be plain rock, but it is actually made up of groups of tiny polyps—sea creatures shaped like tubes. These polyps accumulate over time creating the colorful habitat for many other marine animals. In addition to plants, the widest variety of marine animals live in the Epipelagic Zone. There is a lot of available food, so more animals can survive. Often, animals in this layer are colorful which allows them camouflage in their well-lit homes. Sea turtles, stingrays, and sharks are all common in this zone.

**Mesopelagic Zone  
Twilight Zone  
200-600 Meters/660-3,300 Feet**



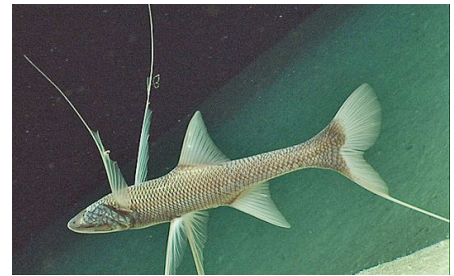
Just below the epipelagic zone is the Mesopelagic Zone. The temperature drops due to the lack of warming sunlight. Pressure also increases in this layer. Colors begin to fade, and humans would not be able to see as much color. Marine life in the Mesopelagic Zone often has adaptations like larger eyes and camouflage. Larger eyes allow more light in and help these animals to see better. Animals might also glow at this layer. This gentle glow is called bioluminescence. Plants cannot photosynthesize at this layer, so there is little to no plant life. Animals must to hunt and hide to survive. Examples of twilight zone animals include cuttlefish, swordfish, and wolf eels.

## **Bathypelagic Zone Midnight Zone 1,000-4,000 Meters/3,300-13,100 Feet**



The third layer of the ocean is the Bathypelagic Zone. It is also referred to as the midnight zone because almost no light reaches this layer. It looks dark as night to the human eye. The pressure here is immense and the temperature drops significantly. The average temperature is very low, remaining around at 4°C, or 39°F. This cold, dark, and high-pressure layer is not an easy place to survive. Animals adapt by finding other ways to see besides using light. They often have small eyes or no eyes at all. Food is scarce. They have efficient bodily systems that make the most of what food they can find. They sometimes have transparent skins. Animals usually found in the Bathypelagic Zone include giant squid, jellyfish, and some crustaceans.

**Abyssopelagic Zone**  
**Abyss Zone**  
**4,000-6,000 Meters/13,100-19,700 Feet**



The ocean floor deep underwater is known as the Abyssopelagic Zone or simply as the abyss zone. It is completely dark here. The bottom of the ocean is covered in muddy dirt that is made from decaying plants and animals. These remains drift down to the ocean floor whole or as marine snow. Many marine animals in the abyss feed on rotting animals who have sunk to the bottom. Others eat animals that are feasting on dead animals. Still other marine life gets nutrients from the muddy ocean floor. Animals adapt to find food where they can. Some animals have built-in fishing lures and lights to attract unsuspecting prey. They usually move and mate slowly to conserve energy. Many animals in the Abyssopelagic Zone are blind since it is too dark to see well. Animals at this layer include different kinds of shrimp, the dumbo octopus, and the tripod fish.

Pictures from: <http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/>



## **Hadalpelagic Zone Trench Zone 6,000-11,000 Meters/19,770-36,000 Feet**



The deepest layer of the ocean is called the Hadalpelagic Zone. It is also known as the trench zone because the ocean fills the underwater canyons. Scientists are still learning about the animals who live here. Because of the immense pressure and darkness, it is difficult to explore this layer of the ocean. The pressure in the Hadalpelagic Zone reaches above 8 tons per square inch. This would crush a human body. Marine life in the abyss has to adapt to find food and to make the most of the food it finds. Animals here eat marine snow as in the layer above. Some animals in these trenches feed on bacteria coming from thermal vents in the ocean floor. Animals have only recently been discovered here, but some examples of animals that live in or near the trench zone are isopods and snailfish.

Pictures from: <https://web.whoi.edu/hades/imagesvideo/>

## Ocean Zone Notes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facts:

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Animal Adaptations:

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Animal Examples:

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Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facts:

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Animal Adaptations:

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Animal Examples:

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Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facts:

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Animal Adaptations:

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Animal Examples:

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Animal Adaptations:

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Animal Examples:

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Animal Adaptations:

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Animal Examples:

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## Ocean Zone Notes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Animal Adaptations:

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Animal Adaptations:

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Animal Adaptations:

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Animal Adaptations:

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Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Animal Adaptations:

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## Designing a Marine Creature

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw your new marine creature. Give it a name and label or list the adaptations your creature has that help it survive in one of the ocean zones.



Creature name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adaptations:

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Ocean Layer and Justification:

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