

OCEAN ZONES

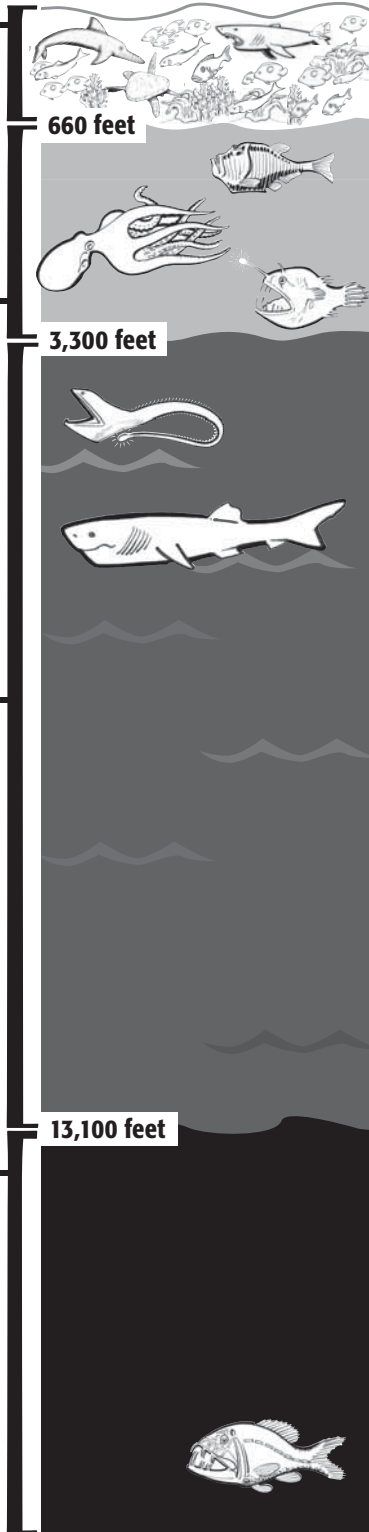
At its deepest point, the ocean is more than six miles deep. Scientists categorize layers of the ocean into zones. Study the diagram to learn about the habitat of each zone. Then answer the questions.

Sunlight Zone
This zone receives light and heat from the sun. That is why so many plants and animals thrive here. Almost 90% of ocean life is in this zone.

Twilight Zone
Very little sunlight reaches this zone. That is why plants cannot grow here. The animals that live here must be able to survive in a cool, dark habitat. Some of the twilight zone's creatures have light-producing organs.

Midnight Zone
This zone does not get any sunlight. It is extremely dark and very cold. The only light in this zone comes from light-producing animals.

Abyss
It is pitch-black and close to freezing at all times here. Only animals that have adapted to the harsh environment can survive.



1. True or false: As the ocean gets deeper, it becomes colder and darker.

2. Explain why there are more living things in the sunlight zone than in any other zone.

3. Where does the small amount of light in the midnight zone come from?

4. Scuba divers do not travel below the sunlight zone. Give at least two reasons why you think this is the case.

5. The word *abyss* comes from the Greek word for "bottomless." Why do you think this zone was given that name?