The Amazing Undersea Food Web

1. **abyssal zone** [Noun]
   Sentence: The deep ocean floor is located in the abyssal zone.
   Definition: the part of the aphotic zone that includes the deep ocean floor

2. **aphotic zone** [Noun]
   Sentence: Many tiny animals that live in the aphotic zone have their own light source.
   Definition: the bottom ocean zone, which receives no sunlight

3. **disphotic zone** [Noun]
   Sentence: The disphotic zone is located directly beneath the euphotic zone.
   Definition: the middle ocean zone, which receives very little sunlight and contains no plants and few animals

4. **euphotic zone** [Noun]
   Sentence: The euphotic zone is also called the sunlit zone.
   Definition: the top ocean zone, which contains almost all of the ocean's life

5. **photosynthesis** [Noun] pho•to•syn•the•sis
   Sentence: photosynthesis is the process by which plants make their own food.
   Definition: the process by which plant cells absorb sunlight and use the Sun's energy to transform water and carbon dioxide into food

6. **phytoplankton** [Noun] phy•to•plank•ton
   Sentence: phytoplankton are the foundation of many aquatic food chains.
   Definition: single-celled algae that live in a body of water

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.

abyssal zone
(noun)

1. The **abyssal zone** is the ocean zone that includes the deep ocean floor.
2. The **abyssal zone**, which is the lower region of the aphotic zone, includes mountains, valleys, and plains.
3. Very few animals can live in the **abyssal zone** because of the complete darkness.

aphotic zone
(noun)

1. The **aphotic zone**, which is the bottom zone of an ocean, is too far below the surface to receive any sunlight.
2. The **aphotic zone**, or midnight zone, comprises about 90 percent of the ocean's water but very little of its life.
3. Many tiny animals that live in the **aphotic zone** are bioluminescent, meaning they create their own light, similar to fireflies.

disphotic zone
(noun)

1. The **disphotic zone**, the middle ocean zone, is sandwiched between the euphotic zone on top and the aphotic zone below.
2. The **disphotic zone**, or twilight zone, does not receive enough light to support plant life.
3. Whales visit the **disphotic zone** but spend most of their time closer to the ocean's surface.

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.

euphotic zone
(noun)

1. The **euphotic zone**, which is the top ocean zone, contains almost all of the ocean's life.
2. The **euphotic zone**, or sunlit zone, extends from the ocean surface to a depth of about two hundred meters (660 ft).
3. Plants thrive in the **euphotic zone** because of the plentiful sunlight, and animals thrive because of the abundant food.

photosynthesis
(noun)

1. During **photosynthesis**, plants convert water, carbon dioxide, and sunlight into carbohydrates and oxygen.
2. **Photosynthesis** takes place in the leaves of plants.
3. Plants get their food through **photosynthesis**, but people and other animals have to find and eat food.

phytoplankton
(noun)

1. **Phytoplankton** live in the top layer of a lake, sea, or ocean because they need sunlight for photosynthesis.
2. **Phytoplankton** and land plants produce much of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere.
3. **Phytoplankton** are at the bottom of aquatic food chains, so their health is important to the health of other life forms.

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.

Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Record a vocabulary word in each word box. Then write a synonym and an antonym, draw a picture, and define each word. Use each word in a sentence on the back of this worksheet.

Word	Picture
_____	

_____
Synonym

_____
Antonym

Definition _____

_____

Word	Picture
_____	

_____
Synonym

_____
Antonym

Definition _____

_____

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.

abyssal zone

the part of the aphotic zone that includes the deep ocean floor
(noun)

aphotic zone

the bottom ocean zone, which receives no sunlight
(noun)

disphotic zone

the middle ocean zone, which receives very little sunlight and contains no plants and few animals
(noun)

euphotic zone

the top ocean zone, which contains almost all of the ocean's life
(noun)

photosynthesis

the process by which plant cells absorb sunlight and use the Sun's energy to transform water and carbon dioxide into food
(noun)

phytoplankton

single-celled algae that live in a body of water
(noun)

Name: _____

An **analogy** shows a relationship between two sets of words. The words in the first pair must have the same relationship as the words in the second pair. To complete an analogy with a missing word, you must first discover the relationship between the completed pair. (Example: *Cat is to meow as dog is to bark.*)

		midnight	
animals	**people**	**zone**	**middle**
	surface	**light**	

INSTRUCTIONS: Determine the relationship between the first pair of words. Then use the words in the word box to complete the second pair of words.

1. **Abyssal zone** is to *floor* ...as... **euphotic zone** is to _____.
2. **Euphotic zone** is to *top* ...as... **disphotic zone** is to _____.
3. **Aphotic zone** is to *dark* ...as... **euphotic zone** is to _____.
4. **Disphotic zone** is to *twilight zone* ...as... **aphotic zone** is to _____.

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.

Name: _____

An **analogy** shows a relationship between two sets of words. The words in the first pair must have the same relationship as the words in the second pair. To complete an analogy with a missing word, you must first discover the relationship between the completed pair. (Example: *Cat is to meow as dog is to bark.*)

light	surface	animals	midnight zone	middle
people				

INSTRUCTIONS: Determine the relationship between the first pair of words. Then use the words in the word box to complete the second pair of words.

5. **Photosynthesis** is to *plants* ...as... **digestion** is to _____.

6. **Phytoplankton** are to *plants* ...as... **zooplankton** are to _____.

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.

Name: _____

abyssal zone	**euphotic zone**	**disphotic zone**
aphotic zone	**photosynthesis**	**phytoplankton**

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the vocabulary words in the word box above to complete the sentences below.

1. The _____ is also called the sunlit zone.

2. The deep ocean floor is located in the _____.

3. The _____ is located directly beneath the euphotic zone.

4. Many tiny animals that live in the _____ have their own light source.

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.

Name: _____

disphotic zone	**photosynthesis**	**aphotic zone**
euphotic zone	**abyssal zone**	**phytoplankton**

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the vocabulary words in the word box above to complete the sentences below.

5. _____ are the foundation of many aquatic food chains.

6. _____ is the process by which plants make their own food.

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.

Name: _____

A **compound word** is a combination of two or more words that are joined to form a new word. There are three types of compounds: **closed compounds** (*sundial, sideline*); **hyphenated compounds** (*city?"state, warm?"blooded*); and **open compounds** (*sign language, sea level*).

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw lines to connect the words that combine to make a compound word. Write the compound word in the space provided.

euphotic	**zone**	1. _____.
aphotic	**synthesis**	2. _____.
photo	**zone**	3. _____.
disphotic	**zone**	4. _____.

Use each compound word in a sentence.

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.

Write three other compound words.

_____ _____ _____

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.

Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Use what you know about the vocabulary words to complete the following sentences.

1. **Phytoplankton** are _____.
2. The ocean's **abyssal zone** is located _____.
3. The ocean's **aphotic zone** is located _____.
4. The ocean's **disphotic zone** is located _____.
5. The ocean's **euphotic zone** is located _____.
6. **Photosynthesis** allows plants to _____.

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.

Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose the best answer to complete each statement.

1. Where is the abyssal zone located?
   - ⓐ at the ocean's surface
   - ⓑ on the ocean's floor
   - ⓒ in the ocean's middle

2. _____ animals live in the aphotic zone.
   - ⓐ Aeronautic
   - ⓑ Bioluminescent
   - ⓒ Migratory

3. The disphotic zone is the _____ zone of the ocean.
   - ⓐ top
   - ⓑ middle
   - ⓒ bottom

4. The euphotic zone is the _____ layer of the ocean.
   - ⓐ bottom
   - ⓑ top
   - ⓒ middle

5. Photosynthesis takes place in the _____ of a plant.
   - ⓐ leaves
   - ⓑ roots
   - ⓒ flowers

6. Phytoplankton are a type of _____.
   - ⓐ algae
   - ⓑ fern
   - ⓒ fish

© 2025 Learning A-Z. All rights reserved.