Ocean Zone Layers

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Nov. 2015: We are in the process of updating these ocean materials, but I wanted to make these available. Check back soon for more!

Sunlight Zone

Twilight Zone

Midnight Zone

Trench Zone

Sunlight Zone:

Sunlight can penetrates up to about 300 meters or 1000 feet in the clearest sea water, though there is rarely any significant light beyond 200 meters (676 feet). Plants can grow in this zone and water temperatures are relatively warm. More than 90% of marine life lives in the Sunlight Zone.

Twilight Zone:

Animals that live in the twilight zone must be able to survive cold temperatures, an increase in water pressure and dark waters. There are no plants in this zone, because there is not enough light for photosynthesis. Most of the fish in this zone don't chase their food. They either stalk it or wait for it to float or swim by. Some animals that live in this zone make their own light with bioluminescence.

Midnight Zone:

No sunlight reaches this zone. It is very cold and the water pressure is high. Animals tend to be translucent or white. Many of the animals here are soft-bodied, which allows them to absorb pressures which might injure or kill other species. Many of the creatures in this zone survive by eating organic material which drifts down through the depths. Others actually feed off the earth itself, consuming bacteria produced from the methane and sulfides seeping through the ocean floor.

Trench Zone:

These are the deepest trenches in the ocean. This zone is found from 6,000 meters (20,000 feet) to the bottom of the ocean. Most life is sustained by marine snow or chemical reactions around hydrothermal vents. plankton, sea stars, jellyfish, sea urchins, sea turtles, dolphins, seals, sharks, sting rays, sand dollars, fish

deep diving whales, Swordfish, octopus, squid, Cuttlefish, Hatchetfish, Viperfish

Lanternfish, Anglerfish, Snipe Eel, Lizardfish, Sea Cucumber

mussels, crabs, tube worms, viperfish

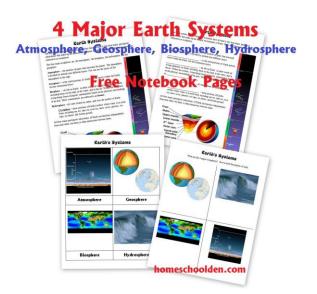
Viperfish stay between 250 to 5,000 feet during the day and rise at night to feed.

Lanternfish are also known for their vertical migration. During daylight hours most species remain in the midnight zone, bathypelagic zone, between 300 and 1,500 m (980 and 4,920 ft) deep, but around sundown they rise to the sunlight zone, epipelagic zone.

Coming soon:

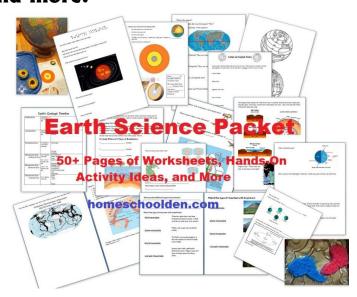


4 major systems (or ecospheres): atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere

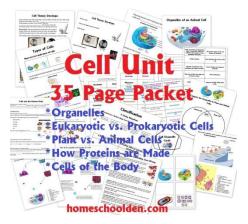


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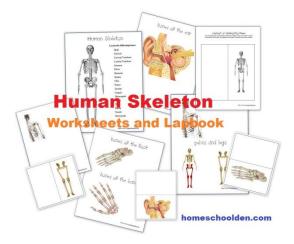


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