

The Blue Planet

Amazing Fact

The deepest spot in the ocean is Challenger Deep, part of the Mariana Trench, which is 10 994 metres below sea level. If you could lower Mount Everest to the bottom of the trench and then stand on top of it, you would still be over 2km below the surface.

Did you know that the earth is sometimes referred to as 'the blue planet?' This is because the world's five oceans cover two thirds of the earth's surface. From space, this makes the earth look blue.

Although there is a wide variety of life in the world's oceans, not all animals and plants can live everywhere. Oceans are divided into different zones, each categorised by such things as: amount of sunlight, water pressure, salinity (amount of salt) and temperature.

Challenge

Use the Internet and non-fiction books to research the different zones of the world's oceans. Record your findings on the diagram on the next page. The names and depths have been included for you. Sketch and make notes in the correct zone.

Include:

- the average temperature in each zone;
- examples of plants and animals living in the zone;
- the effects pressure would have at that depth;
- what exploration has been carried out in each zone.



You could also try to find out:

- if anyone has been to the bottom;
- if any life exists at the bottom of the trench;
- how the depth is measured;
- what happens to the pressure of water at such depths.

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