

# Ocean zones

Oceans may be divided into three zones according to how far down sunlight reaches. To see which zones creatures live in, look for the red arrow in the picture below.



## Sunlit zone

A red arrow pointing to the top area of this picture indicates sea creatures living in the sunlit zone. Sunlight reaches down to about 150m (450ft) deep. Most sea creatures live in sunlit waters. Sunlight reaches through shallow seas and the upper waters of the open ocean.



## Twilight zone

A red arrow pointing to the middle area of this picture indicates sea creatures living in the twilight zone. Light becomes dim below 150m (450ft). The twilight zone reaches from here down to about 1,000m (3,300ft) deep.

## Fishy facts

- The deepest ocean is the Pacific, followed by the Atlantic, then the Indian. The Arctic is the shallowest of all the oceans.
- Many sea creatures depend on ocean plants for their food supply. Plants need sunlight to grow.
- Coral and kelp only grow in shallow seas.



## Midnight zone

A red arrow pointing to the lowest area of this picture indicates sea creatures living in the midnight zone. No sunlight reaches below 1,000m (3,300ft), so the midnight zone is pitch black and extremely cold. The deepest parts of the ocean can be more than 4,000m (13,200ft) deep. This far down is known as the abyss. There are also trenches where the ocean is deeper than 6,000m (19,800ft).

Deep-sea fish have large, glowing bodies and lack eyes, giving them a bioluminescent glow.

Some deep-sea fish have large, glowing bodies and lack eyes, giving them a bioluminescent glow.

