

DIVE IN

DISCOVER

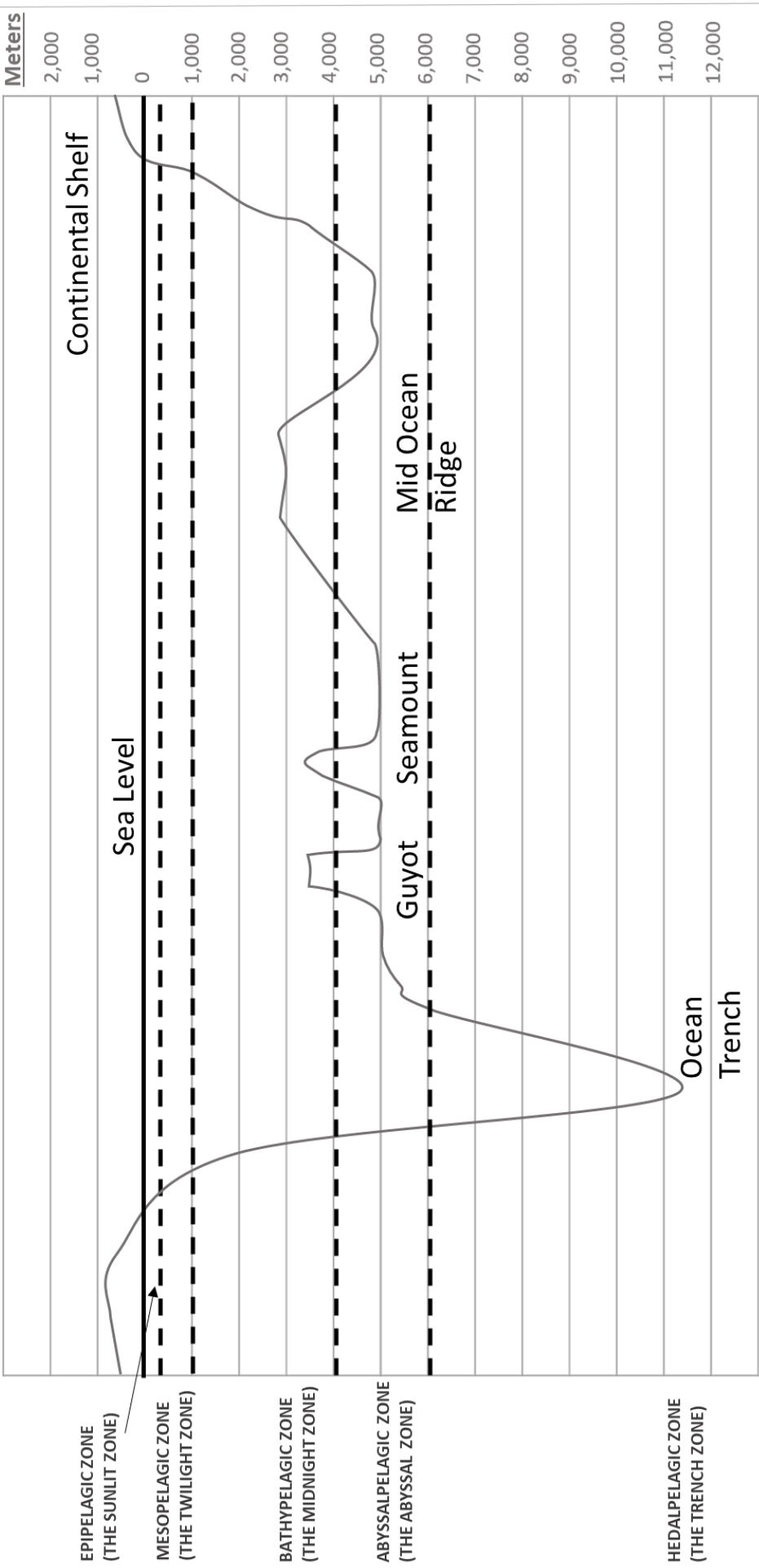
OCEAN
ZONES

AND

CREATURES

BELOW

SEAFLOOR FEATURES WITH PELAGIC ZONES



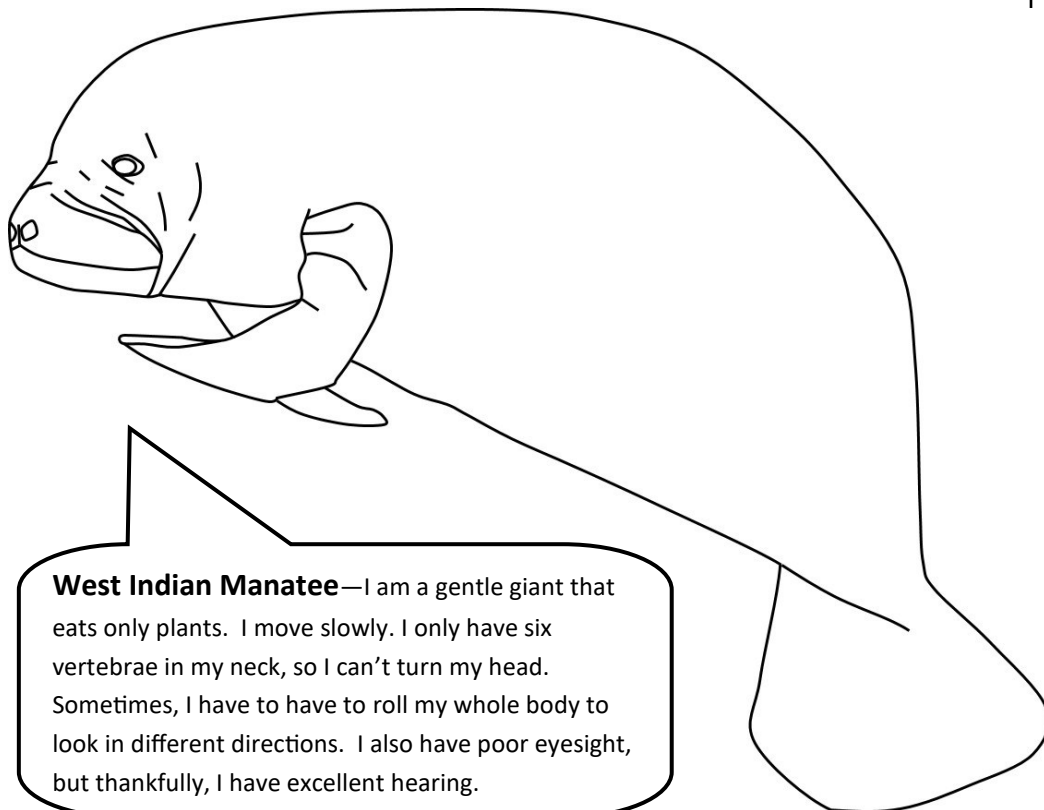
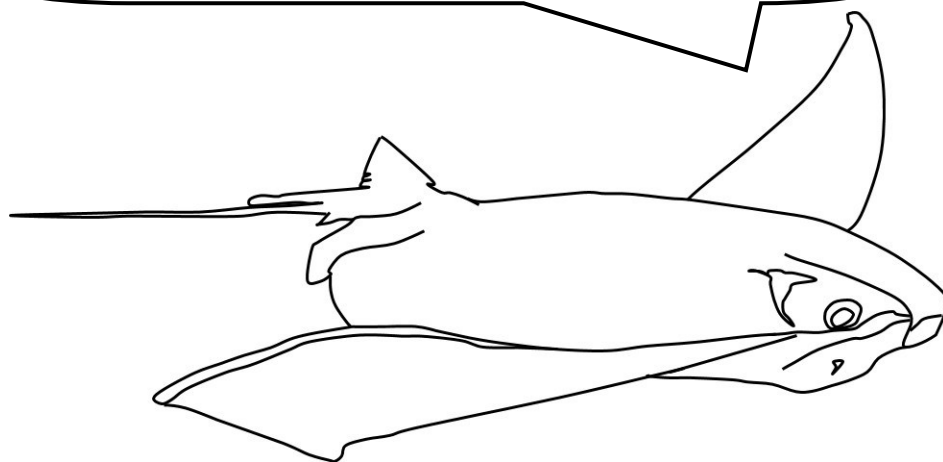
Epipelagic Zone

The Epipelagic Zone is also called the “Sunlit Zone.” Sunlight shines through this layer, helping tiny plants called phytoplankton, and seaweed grow. It begins at the surface and extends to a depth of 200 meters or about 650 feet. Near the coast, the sea floor can vary greatly.

*In Louisiana, our coast includes shallow bays and barrier islands. Farther out, the ocean floor has features like the continental shelf, salt domes, and underwater canyons.

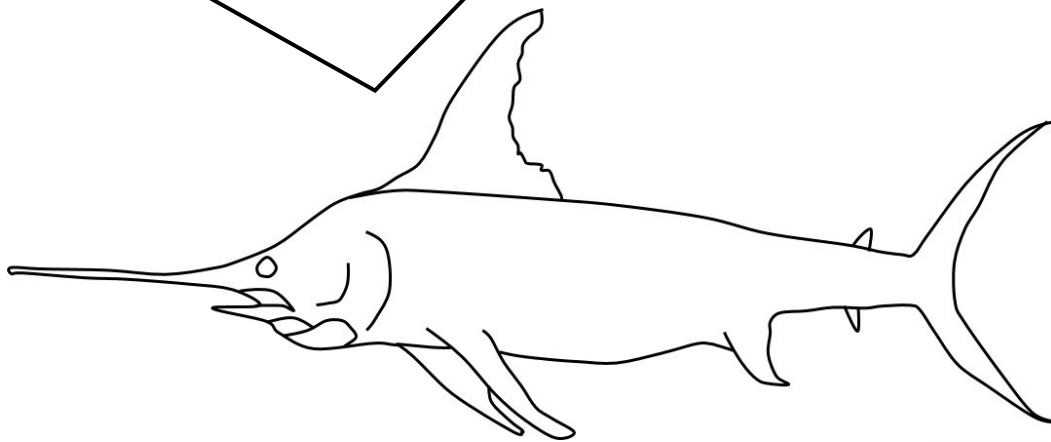
DEPTH (m.)	ZONE
0	Epipelagic
	Mesopelagic
	Bathypelagic
1,800	
3,600	Abyssopelagic
5,400	
7,300	Hadalpelagic
9,000	
11,000	

Cownose Ray—I swim near the surface of the water and am often joined by other rays. Together, we travel long distances. I am named for the two round lobes on the front of my head, which reminds some people of a cow’s snout. My favorite food is shellfish. I can crush them with plates inside my mouth.

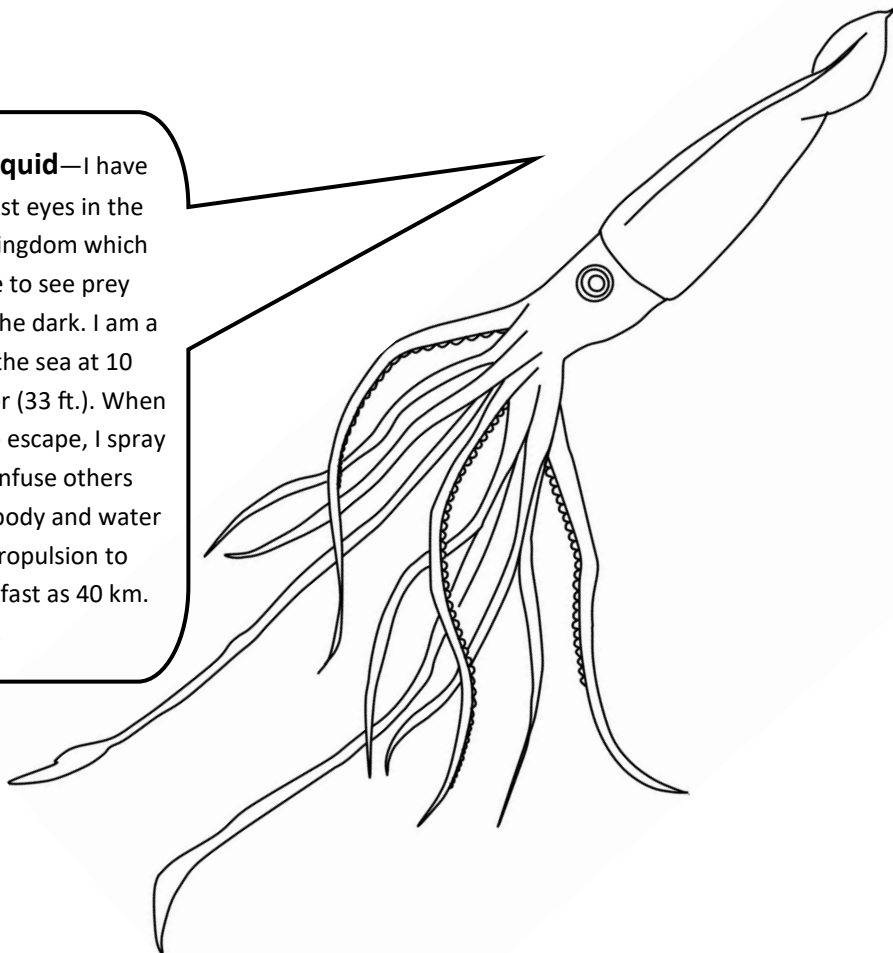


West Indian Manatee—I am a gentle giant that eats only plants. I move slowly. I only have six vertebrae in my neck, so I can’t turn my head. Sometimes, I have to roll my whole body to look in different directions. I also have poor eyesight, but thankfully, I have excellent hearing.

Swordfish—I can grow up to 3 meters or 10 ft. long and am the fastest fish in the ocean. Humans have clocked me traveling at 80 km (50 mph.)! I hunt for food at night and use my long bill as a sword to injure prey. I like to live in warm waters and often travel long distances to find food and other swordfish.



Giant Squid—I have the largest eyes in the animal kingdom which allow me to see prey even in the dark. I am a giant of the sea at 10 meters or (33 ft.). When I need to escape, I spray ink to confuse others and my body and water like jet propulsion to move as fast as 40 km. (25 mph.)



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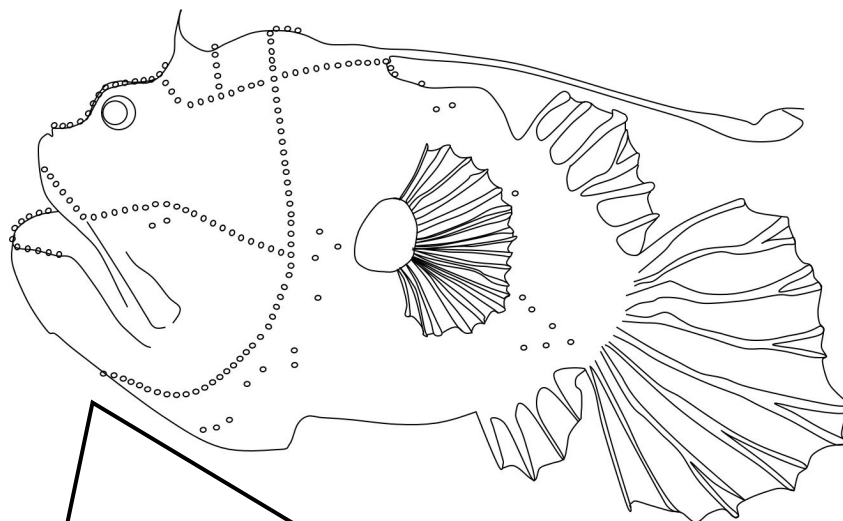
Mesopelagic Zone

The Mesopelagic Zone ranges from 200 to 1,000 meters (650—3,300 ft.) It is often called the “Twilight Zone” because there is only a little bit of light. Its seabed may include parts of the continental shelf, continental slopes, and underwater mountains called seamounts.

Bathypelagic Zone

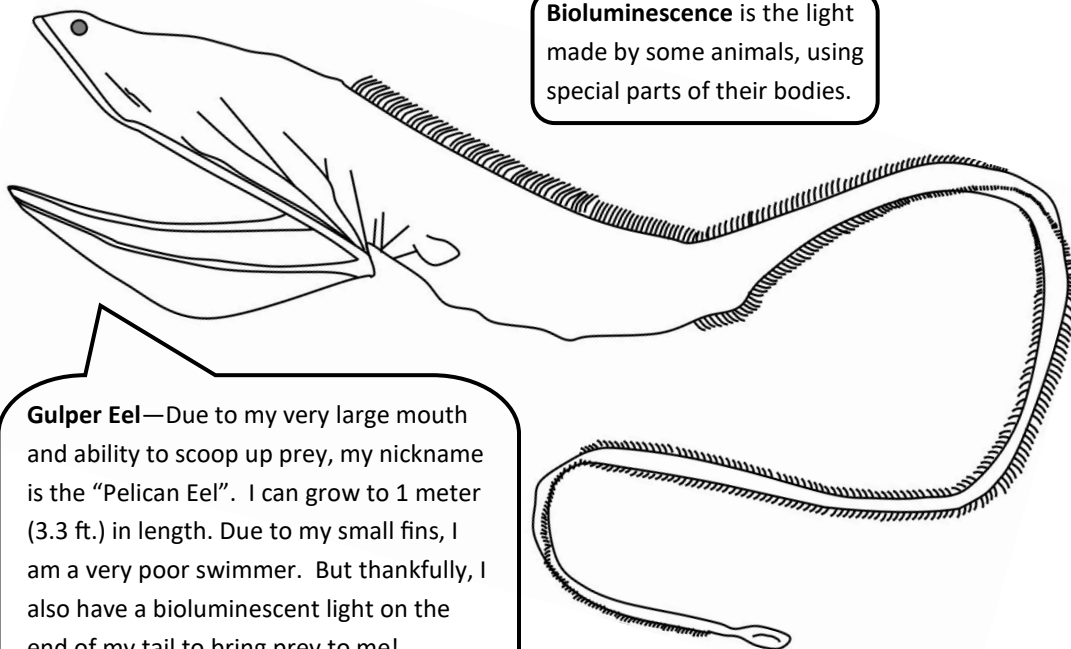
The Bathypelagic Zone is also called the “Midnight Zone”. This part of the ocean is completely dark and reaches a depth of 4,000 meters (13,000 ft.). This zone is opposite geological features such as Seamounts, Guyots, and underwater mountain ranges called Mid-Ocean Ridges. These were formed over millions of years through movement and fracturing of ocean plates .

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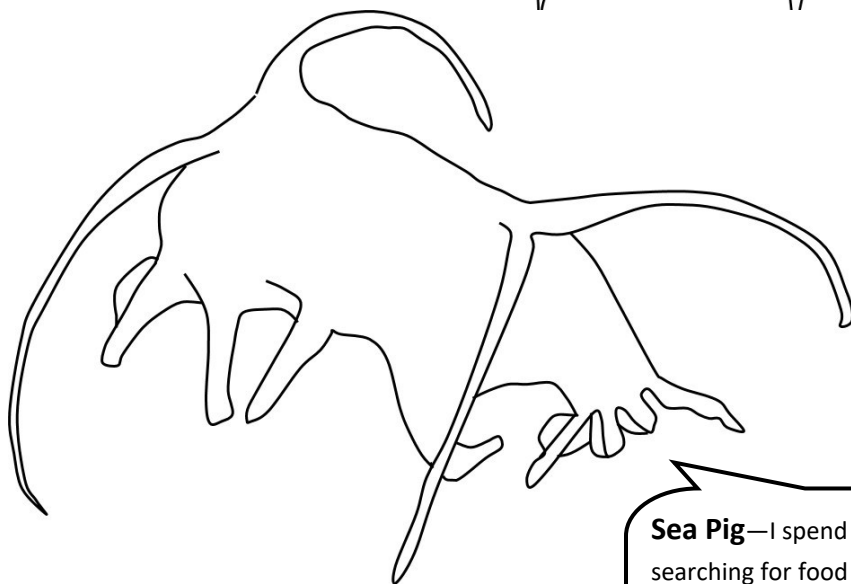
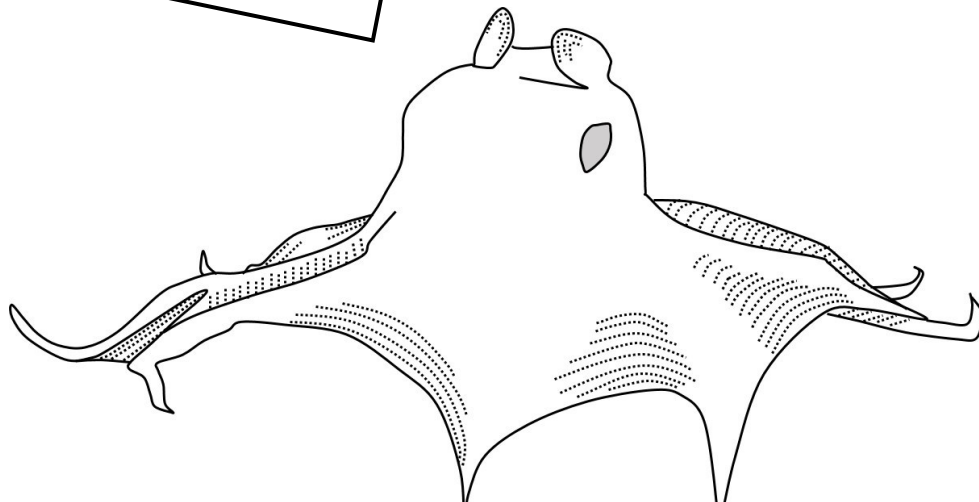
Deep-Sea Angler Fish—I am a female Deep-Sea Angler Fish. You can tell because I have a rod on my forehead I use like a fishing pole. I attract prey by waiving it around and flashing a blue-green light on the end using bioluminescence. I know when prey is near by using the small bumps on my skin to feel and taste things around me. Then, I open my large mouth and ambush them!

Bioluminescence is the light made by some animals, using special parts of their bodies.



Gulper Eel—Due to my very large mouth and ability to scoop up prey, my nickname is the “Pelican Eel”. I can grow to 1 meter (3.3 ft.) in length. Due to my small fins, I am a very poor swimmer. But thankfully, I also have a bioluminescent light on the end of my tail to bring prey to me!

Dumbo Octopus—Of all the octopi, I live in the deepest part of the ocean. I like to spend my time alone nibbling on crustaceans and worms. I am unique compared other octopi, because I have flaps on my head that resemble ears, and I don't have ink to spray at predators as a defense mechanism. I can grow up to 1.8 m or 6 feet in diameter!



Sea Pig—I spend my time searching for food along the sea floor using my tube like legs. I eat dead matter and can grow to 15 centimeters (6 in). I am related to Sea Cucumbers.

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Abyssopelagic Zone

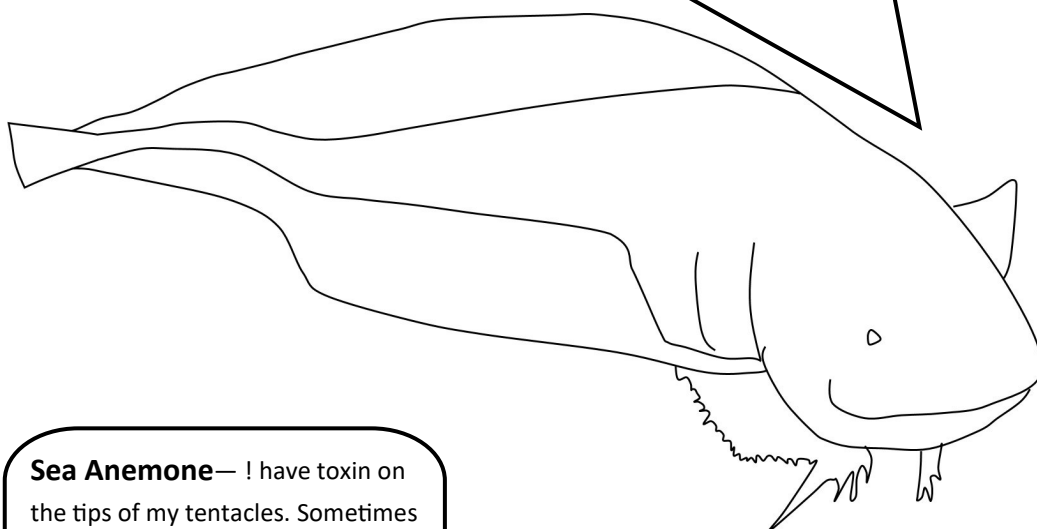
The abyssal plain is 6,000 meters or about 19,600 feet deep. Before scientists discovered deep ocean trenches, people thought The Abyssopelagic Zone was the deepest part of the ocean. It's called "The Abyss," which comes from a Greek word meaning "bottomless." The ocean floor in this zone is mostly flat and is called the abyssal plain. It's covered in something called calcareous ooze, which is made from the tiny shells of sea creatures that sink to the bottom. Once buried, calcareous ooze turns to chalk that we use to write with on chalkboards.

Hadalpelagic Zone

The Hadalpelagic Zone is the deepest part of the ocean. This zone is found in deep ocean trenches, which are formed when one ocean plate sinks under another, called a subduction zone. The deepest place in the ocean, Challenger Deep, is in the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean. It reaches a depth of 10,900 meters (35,900 ft.). It is completely dark, very cold, and under extreme pressure, which is equal to the weight of a full garbage truck per square inch!

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Hadal Snail Fish—I eat crustaceans and worms and use my second set of jaws to crush them! Humans discovered me about 100 years ago. Since then, they always try to film or take my picture whenever they can. There's a rumor that I take short naps on the sea floor!



Sea Anemone— I have toxin on the tips of my tentacles. Sometimes I move them around to defend myself or stun prey. I also have a small foot that I can stick to things so I don't float away!

