

Zones of the Ocean

Shoreline
(Intertidal Zone)



Surface Waters
(Coral Reef)



Sunlit Zone
(Euphotic Zone)



Twilight Zone
(Disphotic Zone)



Abyssal Zone
(Aphotic Zone)



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| Shoreline (Intertidal Zone) | Surface Waters (Coral Reef) |
| Sunlit Zone (Euphotic Zone) | Twilight Zone (Disphotic Zone) |
| Abyssal Zone (Aphotic Zone) | |

Names for the zones of the ocean may differ depending on the source or the country that the information is from. Some sources list as many as 15 ocean layers! This work is meant to be an introduction only. We do not make changes to free downloads, so please enjoy this the way it is. It's free!

Instructions: Print on card-stock, laminate, and cut out labels and definitions.

To use: it's nice to put Velcro on the blank chart in the correct places for the labels, and then put the contrasting Velcro on the back of the labels. Then when the student does the work, the labels stay put. The definitions can be set to the left or the right of the blank chart.

These definitions are very basic and are intended to be a starting point. An interested student could do some more research on the zones of the ocean if they were interested.

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| The shoreline , or intertidal zone , marks the boundary between the water and the land. Many creatures live in the tide pools, including starfish, anemones, crab, and mussels. |
| The surface waters are the topmost layer of the ocean. Coral reefs are found in this zone, along with a wide variety of fish, including sharks, and ocean mammals, including dolphins and porpoises. |
| The sunlit zone (also called <i>euphotic</i> , Greek for "well lit"), is below the surface waters but still receives sunlight. Creatures here include rays, fish, octopus, and squid. |
| The twilight zone (also called <i>disphotic</i> , Greek for "poorly lit"), is much further down and does not receive much sunlight. The pressure here is very intense as well. Animals here include sperm whales, eels, and giant squid. |
| The abyssal zone (part of the <i>aphotic</i> zone, Greek for "no light"), is the bottom zone of the ocean. There is no light at all. Hydrothermal vents from under the Earth's crust provide heat and minerals so that animals can survive. |

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