

Ocean Zones

What is this activity about?

Learning about the different zones in the Earth's Oceans

What you need:

- A printed copy of Ocean Zones and Creatures on pages 2 and 3
- Scissors
- Glue



Ocean image from our PK Archive

How is it linked to PK Porthcurno?

Over 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by oceans. Even so, not much was known about what it was like deep under the sea at the time the first undersea telegraph cables were planned. The modern science of oceanography began at around the same time as these early cables were laid. Today, we know a lot more about the deepest parts of the oceans, and what lives there.

Your Challenge

If you have a printer at home print your own copy of the Ocean Zone and Creatures that follow on pages 2 and 3.

With some scissors take care to cut out the pictures of the sea creatures, then with some glue stick them in the ocean zones where you think they belong.

What do you know about any of these creatures already?

Are there any clues in their appearance about where they belong?

Some of them may spend time in more than one ocean zone - which one do you think counts as the one they live in?

Can you find out about some other ocean creatures and where they live?

Earth's Crust (Rocks)

Continental Shelf

Continental Slope

Abyssal Plain

Trench

Ocean Zones

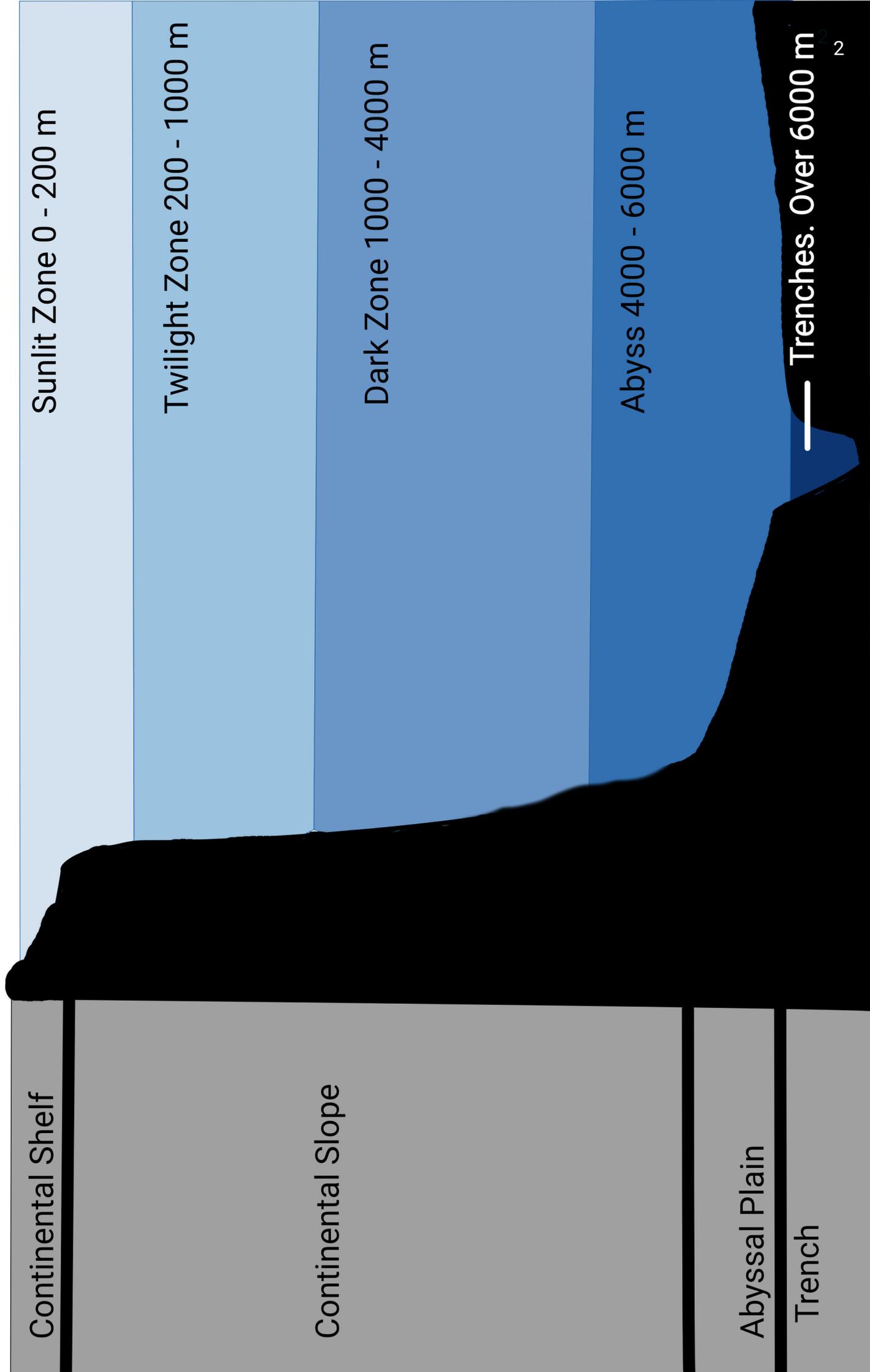
Sunlit Zone 0 - 200 m

Twilight Zone 200 - 1000 m

Dark Zone 1000 - 4000 m

Abyss 4000 - 6000 m

— Trenches. Over 6000 m



Cut out the pictures of sea creatures and stick them where you think they belong on the Ocean Zones picture. How did you decide where to put them?



Shark



Tube Worms



Coral



Sea Turtle



Sperm Whale



Humpback Anglerfish



Octopus

Did you know?

Some creatures that live in the Dark Zone and the Abyss, where little or no sunlight reaches, produce their own light by a chemical reaction. This is called bioluminescence. Some people think that because the ocean is so vast, bioluminescence might be the most common form of communication on Earth.

Many deep ocean creatures survive on food that sinks from nearer the surface.

For a long time we thought that all food chains on Earth depended on energy from sunlight. But in 1977, hydrothermal vents were discovered on the sea bed in the Abyss. These pour out hot water and chemicals from deep inside the Earth. Microbes around hydrothermal vents can use the energy and chemicals to make food. These microbes support deep ocean ecosystems which include tubeworms, ghostly-looking fish and strange shrimps with eyes on their backs.

Planet PK

Our oceans contain a huge variety of living things - we might not have even discovered them all yet. But as you may have heard we are in danger of harming the oceans' wildlife with pollution, especially plastics. It's up to all of us to look after our precious environment. Find out more about PK Porthcurno's commitment to wildlife, natural heritage, sustainability and wellbeing in our Planet PK pages: pkporthcurno.com/discover-pk/planet-pk/

Connect with us!

We'd love for you to share your ocean zones pictures with us -
What other creatures did you find out about?



#PKPorthcurno #Oceanography #SteamExplorers #PlayfulMuseums #KidsInMuseums

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