

Quick Quiz: The Mariana Trench

Show what you know!

Directions: Fill in the blanks below with the correct answer.

1. What is the name of the top light zone of the ocean that extends down to approximately 50 meters?

2. Name three characteristics of the Aphotic Zone:

3. The Mariana Trench is approximately how many miles deep? _____

4. The Mariana Trench is located in the _____ Ocean.

5. What unique conditions do the creatures that live in the Mariana Trench have to deal with? What is one adaptation some have developed?

6. What are some of the recently discovered resources from the deep sea?

7. _____

What country has jurisdiction over the Mariana Trench? Why?

8. What does EEZ stand for? _____

9. What is another name for the "Twilight Zone" of the ocean?

10. How would you characterize the current regulation of laws regarding the use of resources discovered in the deep sea?

Answer Key:

1. Euphotic (or “Sunlight”) Zone (Note: another name for this zone is “Epipelagic.”)
2. Cold, dark, and high pressure (Other answers may include: food is scarce and animals are rare.)
3. Approximately 7 miles
4. Pacific
5. They have adapted to extreme conditions like very cold or very hot temperatures, complete darkness, a limited food supply, and extreme pressure. Some have self-lighting organs. (Other answers may include: heightened sense organs, camouflage color, and a large mouth and sharp teeth to catch prey.)
6. Scientists have discovered deep-sea marine organisms that may one day cure certain cancers or Alzheimer’s. Species found in the deep sea are used as additives in cosmetic products and also in food. The deep sea has oil and mineral resources as well as the potential to store toxic waste under the ocean floor.
7. The U.S.; because the Mariana Trench is less than 200 nautical miles from the Mariana Islands, which are under the jurisdiction of the U.S.
8. Exclusive Economic Zone
9. The Dysphotic Zone
10. Regulation is almost non-existent, or very general and very lax at best.