

Middle School Oceanography Quiz

Oceanography · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which of the following ocean zones receives enough sunlight for photosynthesis to occur?

- A) Bathypelagic zone
- B) Photic zone**
- C) Abyssal zone
- D) Hadal zone

2. What is the primary cause of surface currents in the ocean?

- A) Global wind patterns**
- B) Underwater volcanoes
- C) Earth's rotation
- D) Tidal forces

3. Which feature of the ocean floor is formed by plate tectonics at a divergent boundary?

- A) Trench
- B) Seamount
- C) Mid-ocean ridge**
- D) Continental shelf

4. What is the average salinity of the world's oceans?

- A) 15 parts per thousand
- B) 35 parts per thousand**
- C) 55 parts per thousand
- D) 75 parts per thousand

5. Which ocean is the largest and deepest on Earth?

- A) Atlantic Ocean
- B) Indian Ocean
- C) Arctic Ocean
- D) Pacific Ocean**

6. What term describes the measurement of the vertical distance from the ocean surface to the seafloor?

- A) Elevation
- B) Bathymetry**
- C) Topography
- D) Geodesy

7. Which phenomenon occurs when cold, nutrient-rich water rises from the deep ocean to the surface?

- A) Downwelling
- B) Tidal surge
- C) Upwelling**
- D) El Nino

8. What is the largest coral reef system in the world?

- A) Belize Barrier Reef
- B) Great Barrier Reef**
- C) New Caledonia Barrier Reef
- D) Red Sea Coral Reef

9. The majority of the Earth's oxygen is produced by what type of marine organism?

- A) Phytoplankton**
- B) Seaweed
- C) Coral polyps
- D) Crustaceans

10. What is the deepest known point in the Earth's oceans?

- A) Puerto Rico Trench
- B) Java Trench
- C) Mariana Trench**
- D) Tonga Trench

11. Which gas, when absorbed in excess by the ocean, leads to ocean acidification?

- A) Nitrogen
- B) Carbon dioxide**
- C) Oxygen
- D) Argon

12. What type of tide occurs when the Sun, Moon, and Earth are aligned, causing higher than normal tides?

- A) Neap tide
- B) Ebb tide
- C) Spring tide**
- D) Slack tide

13. Which layer of the ocean is characterized by a rapid change in temperature with depth?

A) Thermocline

B) Halocline

C) Pycnocline

D) Mixed layer

14. What are the flat, sediment-covered areas of the deep ocean floor called?

A) Abyssal plains

B) Continental slopes

C) Ocean basins

D) Guyots

15. Which instrument is commonly used to map the seafloor using sound waves?

A) Barometer

B) Sonar

C) Thermometer

D) Anemometer