

Middle School Oceanography

Oceanography · Answer Key · 11 Questions

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

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

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

- A) Challenger Deep**
- B) Java Trench
- C) Puerto Rico Trench
- D) Sunda Trench

3. What is the average salinity of Earth's ocean water?

- A) 0.5%
- B) 3.5%**
- C) 10.0%
- D) 15.5%

4. Which force is primarily responsible for generating ocean tides on Earth?

- A) Ocean surface winds
- B) Gravitational pull of the Moon**
- C) Earth's magnetic field
- D) Underwater volcanic eruptions

5. In oceanography, what does the term 'thermocline' refer to?

- A) A layer where water temperature changes rapidly with depth**
- B) The maximum depth that light penetrates ocean water
- C) A boundary between salty water and freshwater
- D) An area where deep ocean water moves toward the surface

6. Which underwater geological feature is created when tectonic plates pull apart along the ocean floor?

- A) Oceanic trench
- B) Mid-ocean ridge**
- C) Submarine canyon
- D) Abyssal plain

7. What drives the primary movement of global ocean surface currents?

A) Underwater earthquakes

B) Global wind patterns

C) Phytoplankton migration

D) Rivers entering the sea

8. What process brings cold, nutrient-rich water from the deep ocean up to the surface?

A) Upwelling

B) Evaporation

C) Subduction

D) Condensation

9. Deep ocean circulation (thermohaline circulation) is driven by differences in which two water properties?

A) Light and wave height

B) Temperature and salinity

C) Wind speed and pressure

D) Oxygen levels and clarity

10. Which technology uses sound waves to map the depth and contours of the ocean floor?

A) Radar

B) Sonar

C) Lidar

D) Seismograph

11. What is the gently sloping, shallow region of the ocean floor that extends from the edge of a continent?

A) Abyssal plain

B) Continental shelf

C) Oceanic trench

D) Continental rise