Marine Biology Challenge

Marine Biology · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which specialized cells do cnidarians, such as jellyfish, use to capture prey and defend themselves?

A) Choanocytes
B) Cnidocytes
C) Amebocytes
D) Hematocytes

2. What is the primary function of the lateral line system found in most bony fish?

A) Digesting complex proteins
B) Regulating internal body temperature
C) Detecting vibrations and water pressure changes
D) Filtering oxygen from the water

3. Which marine mammal is the only species that lacks a layer of blubber for insulation, relying instead on extremely dense fur?

A) Sea Otter
B) Dugong
C) Narwhal
D) Beluga Whale

4. What is the name of the symbiotic algae that live inside coral polyps and provide them with energy via photosynthesis?

A) Diatoms
B) Zooxanthellae
C) Cyanobacteria
D) Coccolithophores

5. Which zone of the ocean, also known as the twilight zone, begins where sunlight fades and photosynthesis is no longer possible?

A) Epipelagic
B) Mesopelagic
C) Bathypelagic
D) Abyssopelagic

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6. Unlike most sharks, which organ do requiem sharks lack, forcing them to keep moving to push oxygenated water through their gills?

A) Pectoral fin
B) Dorsal spine
C) Spiracle
D) Caudal peduncle

7. What is the process called when marine organisms like anglerfish produce their own light through chemical reactions?

A) Bioluminescence
B) Photosynthesis
C) Chemosynthesis
D) Phosphorescence

8. Which cephalopod is known for having a highly toxic bite caused by symbiotic bacteria in its salivary glands?

A) Giant Pacific Octopus
B) Blue-ringed Octopus
C) Common Cuttlefish
D) Bobtail Squid

9. What is the calcium carbonate structure that forms the exterior of many marine mollusks called?

A) Carapace
B) Test
C) Shell
D) Exoskeleton

10. Which of these marine plants is actually a true seagrass, possessing roots, stems, and flowers?

A) Giant Kelp
B) Eelgrass
C) Sea Lettuce
D) Sargassum

11. What is the term for the movement of cold, nutrient-rich water from the deep ocean to the surface?

A) Downwelling
B) Upwelling
C) Tidal surge
D) Gyre

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12. Which deep-sea crustacean is famous for having one of the fastest appendages in the animal kingdom, capable of striking with the speed of a bullet?

A) Mantis Shrimp
B) Blue Lobster
C) King Crab
D) Krill

13. What is the primary substance that makes up the skeleton of sharks and rays?

A) Calcified bone
B) Cartilage
C) Keratin
D) Chitin

14. Which marine reptile spends its entire life cycle in the ocean and has a specialized gland to excrete excess salt from its eyes?

A) Saltwater Crocodile
B) Leatherback Sea Turtle
C) Yellow-bellied Sea Snake
D) Marine Iguana

15. What type of feeder is a baleen whale, which uses fringed plates to strain plankton from the water?

A) Filter feeder
B) Deposit feeder
C) Predatory carnivore
D) Scavenger

16. Which phenomenon involves mass coral bleaching events often triggered by an increase in ocean temperature?

A) Eutrophication
B) Thermal stress
C) Acidification
D) Sedimentation

17. What do marine biologists call the free-floating, mostly microscopic organisms that drift with ocean currents?

A) Nekton
B) Benthos
C) Plankton
D) Neuston

18. Which marine animal is considered a keystone species because it prevents sea urchins from overgrazing kelp forests?

A) Sea Otter

B) Great White Shark

C) Green Sea Turtle

D) Common Dolphin