

Name _____ Date _____

Ocean Animals and Adaptations Answer Key

Use the provided websites to research the animals of each zone and their adaptations. Write the information you find in the chart below.

Intertidal Zone	
Zone Characteristics or Conditions	Pounding waves, regular tides that either submerge animals in water or leave them exposed to the sun, wind, and predators like birds
Animals	Sea urchins, sea stars, mussels, barnacles, anemones, crabs, hermit, fish, limpets
Animal Adaptations	Animals must find a way to hang on, or risk being tossed onto the beach or swept out to sea. Some, like mussels, barnacles, and anemones, attach themselves to rocks. Others, like crabs and fish, hide under stones and in grasses.
Pelagic Zone (open ocean)	
Zone Characteristics or Conditions	Open waters, some sunlight depending on depth, no shore, no sea floor
Animals	Many different species of fish, marine mammals, turtles, sharks, and invertebrates
Animal Adaptations	Fish traveling in groups, animals blending into their surroundings
Abyssal Benthic Zone (abyss)	
Zone Characteristics or Conditions	Ocean floor, boiling hot springs, hydrothermal vents and chimneys, and underwater volcanoes, no sunlight, high pressure
Animals	Giant tube worms, shrimp, octopus, bacteria
Animal Adaptations	Some survive on chemicals that come out of the earth's crust because the sun's energy does not reach that deep. Some are bioluminescent.