

Deep Sea Challenge and Adaptation Cards

Read each challenge and adaptation card below. Notice the descriptive clues. Match each card to one of the photos in the Deep Sea Organisms photo gallery.

Challenge: Living in the deep ocean means a lot of pressure on your body from all the water above you!

Adaptation: Squishy bodies and organs, few or no bones.

Challenge: The deep ocean has little or no light, so colors don't show.

Adaptation: Red or black is the best camouflage.

Challenge: In the deep sea, little or no sunlight shines in the ecosystem, so animals can't see.

Adaptation: Many animals light up in patterns to communicate they are looking for food or a mate, or to warn predators to stay away.

Challenge: Where there is little light, animals can't see well to communicate or find each other.

Adaptation: Animals have big eyes to let in as much light as possible and may be shiny or reflective.

Challenge: There are not a lot of animals in the deepest parts of the ocean, so food to prey on is hard to find.

Adaptation: Animals want to be able to eat whatever they find, so some may have huge mouths so they can eat things that are bigger than they are.

Challenge: Humans have a difficult time exploring the deep sea because of the freezing temperatures, extremely high pressure, and lack of light.

Adaptation: Scientists use submersibles and other tools to look into the depths.