

# Vocabulary

*Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.*

- abyssopelagic zone** ..... the depths of the ocean between 4,000 and 6,000 meters; in the aphotic or midnight zone
- aphotic zone** ..... area of ocean where light does not penetrate; also called the *midnight zone*
- bathypelagic zone** ..... the depths of the ocean between 1,000 and 4,000 meters; in the aphotic or midnight zone
- benthic** ..... bottom environment; refers to animals living on or in the seabed
- biome** ..... large-area ecosystem sharing similar characteristics; an environmental unit
- disphotic zone** ..... dimly lit region of the ocean where there is not enough light to carry on photosynthesis; also called the *twilight zone*
- epifauna** ..... animals that live *on* the surface of the seabed
- epipelagic zone** ..... upper layer of water extending to depth of 200 meters; in the photic or sunlit zone

# Vocabulary

- habitat** ..... specific area or type of environment in which an organism is found
- hadalpelagic zone** ..... the depths of the ocean below 6,000 meters in the deep-ocean trenches; in the aphotic or midnight zone
- infauna** ..... animals that live *within* the sediments of the seafloor
- littoral zone** ..... area between the tides; also called the *intertidal zone*
- mesopelagic zone** ..... middle layer of ocean water between 200 and 1,000 meters; in the disphotic or twilight zone
- nekton** ..... free-swimming organisms
- neritic province** ..... waters over the continental shelf; near-shore zone
- oceanic province** ..... waters beyond the continental shelf; open-ocean zone
- pelagic** ..... of or pertaining to the seas or oceans
- photic zone** ..... lighted region of the ocean; area where photosynthesis can occur; also called the *sunlit zone*

# Vocabulary

- plankton** ..... small, usually microscopic plant or animal organisms that float or drift in the ocean
- province** ..... a particular area or region
- rocky coasts** ..... shores made up of solid rock and usually steeper than sandy beaches
- sessile** ..... organisms that are attached to a surface and cannot move around
- sublittoral zone** ..... benthic area of the continental shelf below the low-tide area; also called *subtidal*
- supralittoral zone** ..... dry area above the high-tide line; sometimes called the *spray* or *splash zone*
- surf zone** ..... the area of crashing waves along a sandy beach
- tide pools** ..... small habitats formed when spaces between rocks retain water at low tide