

# Vocabulary

*Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.*

**clarity** ..... the state or quality of being clear or transparent to the eye; clearness of water; depth to which light can travel in water

**corer** ..... a cylindrical device used to obtain a sample of sediment from the ocean floor

**decompression** ..... the gradual return of persons (such as deep-sea divers) or conditions to normal atmospheric pressure

**density** ..... in *science*—the mass (amount of matter) of an object per unit volume (space occupied);  
density = mass / volume ( $d = \frac{m}{v}$ )

**dredge** ..... a scoop-like device used to collect rock samples from the ocean floor

**drift bottle** ..... an instrument used to measure the direction and speed of ocean currents

**echo sounding** ..... a method that uses sound waves to determine the depth of the ocean floor; also called the *precision depth recorder*

**grab sampler** ..... a device that picks up sediment from the ocean floor

**hydrometer** ..... an instrument that measures the density of water

# Vocabulary

**ion** ..... an electrically charged atom or molecule formed by gaining or losing one or more electrons

**Nansen bottle** ..... an instrument that records the temperature at the ocean's surface and at various depths below the surface

**plankton** ..... small, usually microscopic plant or animal organisms that float or drift in the ocean

**plankton net** ..... a cone-shaped net of fine mesh that is pulled through water to collect plankton

**salinity** ..... the measure of the amount of dissolved salts (solids) in seawater

**SCUBA** ..... acronym for **self-contained underwater breathing apparatus**; portable air tank used by divers

**secchi disk** ..... an instrument used to measure the clarity (clearness) of water

**seine net** ..... a fishing or sampling net that hangs straight in the water, separating one area from another

**seismic profiling** ..... echo sounding using powerful sound waves that reach below the surface of the ocean floor

# Vocabulary

- side scan sonar** ..... a method that uses sound waves to view a wide area of the ocean floor; provides pictures of objects on the ocean floor
- sodium chloride** ..... NaCl (chemical formula); common table salt; the most common salt in seawater
- titration apparatus** ..... an instrument that measures the amount of substances in seawater
- trawl** ..... a large net pulled along the bottom of the ocean to gather animals that live on the ocean floor