

# Vocabulary

*Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.*

**abyssal plains** ..... large, flat regions on the ocean floor

**basin** ..... the ocean floor at a depth of more than 4,000 meters

**continental shelf** ..... a relatively flat part of the continent that is covered by seawater; lies between the coast and the continental slope

**continental slope** ..... the sloping surface between the outer edge of the continental shelf and the ocean basin

**guyots (GEE-oze or GEE-oots)** .... underwater volcanic mountains with flat tops

**mid-ocean ridge** ..... a mountain chain that rises from the ocean basins; where seafloor spreading takes place

**seamounts** ..... underwater, cone-shaped volcanic mountains

**submarine canyons** ..... deep, V-shaped valleys found along the continental slope

**topography** ..... detailed charting of the features of an area; heights, depths, and shapes of the surface of an area

**trenches** ..... long, narrow cracks in the ocean floor; the deepest parts of the ocean