

# OCEAN LIFE ZONES

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

1. Ocean life is determined by many factors. List three and explain:
  - a. **SUNLIGHT** - most animals live near the surface - more sunlight
  - b. **TEMPERATURE** - most animals live near the surface - warmer
  - c. **WATER PRESSURE** - most animals live near the surface - less water pressure
  
2. Animals and plants in the ocean can be classified into three major groups. List and explain:
  - a. **PLANKTON** - very small animals that float on or near surface
  - b. **NEKTON** - animals that swim
  - c. **BENTHOS** - animals that live on the ocean floor
  
3. List and describe the major ocean life zones:
  - a. **INTERTIDAL** - lies between low- and high-tide lines
  - b. **NERITIC** - extends from low-tide line to end of continental shelf
  - c. **OPEN OCEAN** - lies above the continental slope or on the abyssal plain
    - i. **BATHYAL** - begins at continental slope down about 2000 meters
    - ii. **ABYSSAL** - covers the large, flat abyssal plains of the ocean