

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