

National Science Week: Deep Blue



A note to Leaders

National Science Week runs from August 15 to 23 and this year's theme is "Deep Blue: innovation for the future of our oceans".

Select from the following activities to help your Scouts explore the mysteries of our oceans and become fascinated with understanding and protecting this precious resource.

We are about to enter the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. We can remind our youth members that by respecting and protecting our oceans we are upholding WOSM's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and upholding our own commitment to the Australian Scout Law.

Call of the Blobfish



You might like to show the Scouts a picture of the different ocean zones before you start these activities or watch this short, animated video on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ArwPfNgSKE>.

Ocean zones game

Use these actions to represent the different ocean zones. Get the Scouts to practise the different actions together, then call out the zones in a random order and see if they can remember the actions for each zone.

- Sunlight Zone – stretch up as high as you can and make your hands swim around like a fish
- Twilight Zone – stand up straight and wiggle your arms like an octopus
- Midnight Zone – wiggle your arms like an eel down at your waist height

- The Abyss – crouch down low and dangle your arm in front of you like an angler fish's light
- Trenches (Hadal Zone) – lay flat on the floor like a giant sea cucumber

Try sharing the instructions for this game with a youth member before the meeting and ask them to lead the game.

Call of the Blobfish podcast

Listen to the first episode of 'Call of the Blobfish' from Kids Story Room.

<https://kidsstoryroom.com/2020/08/07/call-of-the-blobfish-episode-1/>

Blobfish activities

After the podcast finishes the Scouts could try drawing the blobfish and his friend prawn. What does a blobfish actually look like? Find out together! Another option is to make blobfish and prawn out of playdoh. The recipe below is a simple no cook playdoh recipe that can be made using household ingredients.

Review

Did the Scouts enjoy episode 1 of the Call of the Blobfish? Would they like to listen to the next episode in the story next week? There are also more resources provided by Kids Story Room to help you explore the other characters in the Blobfish story.

<https://kidsstoryroom.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Support-Pack-Blobfish-Pod-Play.pdf>

Make a marine creature

Get involved in the National Science Week Deep Blue Marine STEAM competition by making a marine sea creature. Here is a brief description of the challenge taken from the National Science Week website:



“Get creative with craft materials, paint and items from around your home and backyard to design and make a marine creature. Be inspired by researching marine creatures online or in books. Your design process should consider your marine creature’s physical size and features, defence mechanisms, diet and habitat. Your design may be based on a real-life creature or an imaginary creature. The deep blue is the limit.”

Equipment suggestions:

- Recycled packaging that has been cleaned
- Coloured paper
- Pencils/textas
- Scissors
- Sticky tape and glue
- Sticks, leaves, rwocks etc.

Check out the website for details on how to enter your marine creature in the competition to win great science prizes.

<https://www.scienceweek.net.au/event/deep-blue-marine-steam-competition-for-3-10-year-olds/>

More National Science Week Activities

There are a number of free online National Science Week events open to the public that are being hosted by different community organisations. These events are all great opportunities for Scouts to participate in the Community Challenge area.

Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts might enjoy these Marine Science presentations from the Gold Coast covering different topics such as ‘The secret life of a nudibranch’ or ‘Marine Biologist Field Day’. Follow this link to register for these free events <https://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/libraries/science-innovation-tab-whats-on-279.html>

Older Scouts and Venturers might be interested in these careers in STEM presentations for secondary school students.

- Virtual Inspire in 5 – Saturday August 15
- <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/event/virtual-inspire-in-5/>
- Super STEM Careers Q&A - Wednesday August 19
- <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/super-stem-careers-qa-registration-113714978562>

SciScouts’ [Destination Moon and Beyond \(Online\)](#) event is being run on **Saturday August 15** in collaboration with [Fizzics Education!](#) While the Zoom tickets for Destination Moon & Beyond have sold out, you can still watch the Facebook Live broadcast via the [SciScouts](#), [Young Stars](#) and [YMCA Canberra Space Squad](#) Facebook pages. Take your pick, as it will be broadcast simultaneously.

Activity instructions: No-Cook playdough recipe

Equipment:

- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 tbs oil
- 1 cup cold water
- 2 drops liquid food colouring

1. In a bowl combine 2 cups of plain flour with 1 cup of salt and mix well.
2. In a separate jug add 1 cup of cold water, 2 drops of food colouring and 1 tablespoon of oil.
3. Slowly add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients, mixing well to combine.
4. If mixture is too wet add a little extra flour.



Some of these materials have been adapted from Australian Science Teachers Association, A Resource book of ideas for National Science Week 2020, licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution- Non-Commercial 4.0 International licence (CC BY-NC 4.0) <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>



PHOTIC

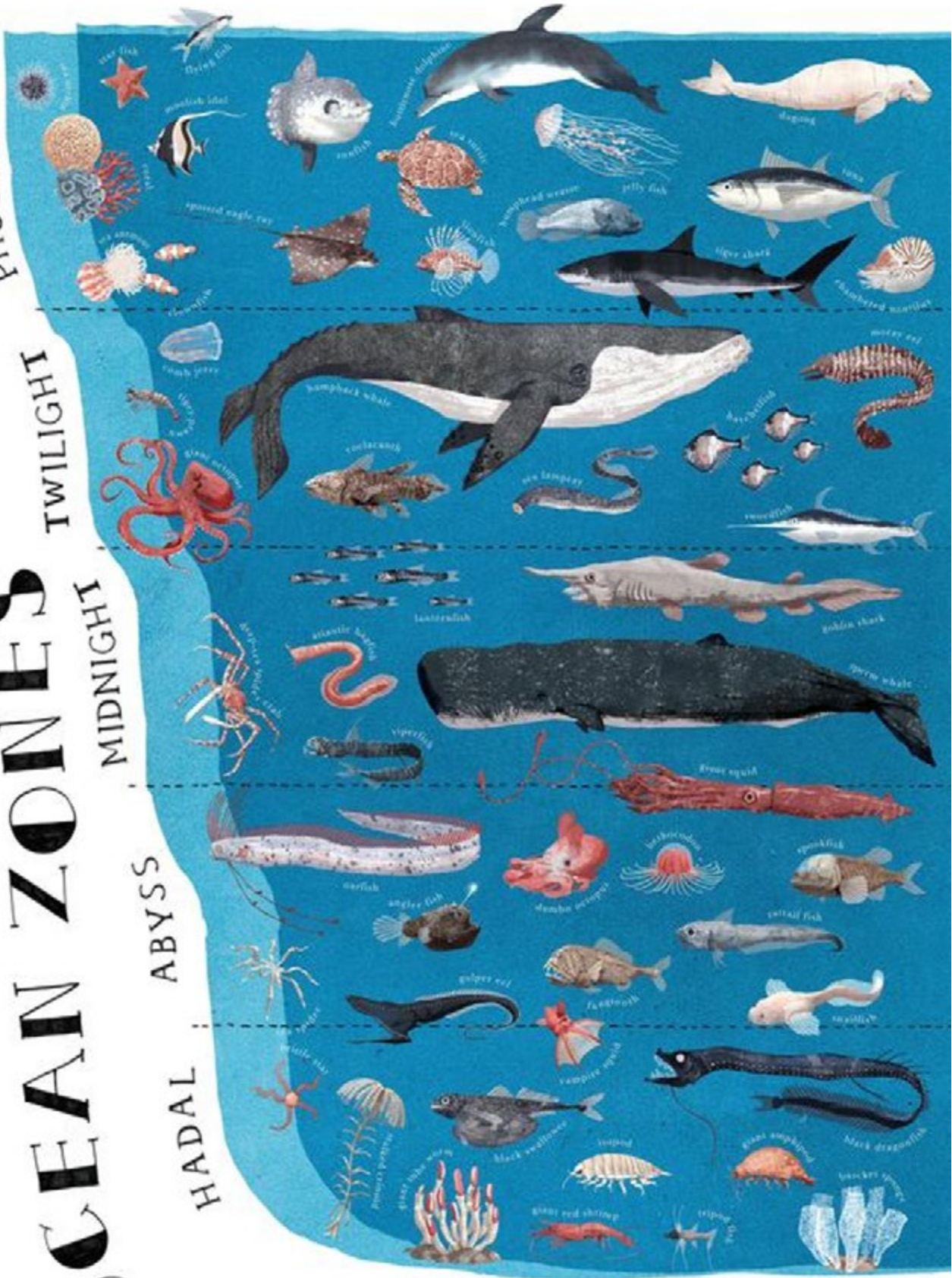
TWILIGHT

MIDNIGHT

ABYSS

HADAL

OCEAN ZONES



PHOTIC
Most marine life and human activities can be found in this area. The temperature remains relatively constant due to sunlight and the winds on the ocean surface.

TWILIGHT
The water in this area is cold and dim because sunlight is absorbed by the seawater. Through a process called bioluminescence, many creatures here are able to produce their own light.

MIDNIGHT
This zone gets no sunlight and the temperature is nearly freezing. Creatures in this area have evolved uniquely to survive in the darkness and high pressures.

ABYSS
Over 70% of the ocean floor can be found in this area. The creatures living here are very limited. They may be blind and believed to reproduce very slowly.

HADAL
This region can be found in the narrow holes in the ocean basin and before called trenches. The organisms living here are nearly extinct.

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