

Ocean Zones for Kids: Layers of the Sea Science Project

<https://www.kcedventures.com/blog/layers-of-the-ocean-under-the-sea-science-activities>



Today's activity focuses on some under-the-sea science questions that will help your kids understand the five layers of the ocean, who lives there and how light travels -- and it's one amazingly beautiful project!

Ocean Layers Science Project

You'll need a few items to create your own layers of the ocean:

- 5 small containers (we used glass spice jars from Trader Joe's) that will easily stack. If you don't have small jars, try using [small round food storage containers with lids](#) or even these [larger rectangular bins](#) so you can include more animals in each one

- Water
- [Food coloring](#) (you'll need blue, red & green to make the colors in all 5 layers)
- Ocean creatures
- Paper & pen so you can label each ocean layer

And of course, a book or two. You'll want some that discuss the various layers or zones -- I like to ask my kids what they want to learn about when it comes to starting with a book. Some will say 'glow in the dark' fish and others will say dolphins.

Which Sea Animals live in which Ocean Layer?

Write out the names of the 5 Ocean Layers/Zones so you can use them to label your bottles:

- Sunlight Zone
- Twilight Zone
- Midnight Zone
- Abyss
- Trenches

If you're using any animal figures, be sure to put them into the containers first! You can use one of these books to learn more about which marine animals live in the various ocean zones or layers. [Ocean: A Visual Encyclopedia](#) is a beautiful book with gorgeous photos & facts for all types of ocean animals!

What are the names of the Ocean Zones?

Once you've added your animals, fill each container with water and then add food coloring for each of your ocean zones. Our containers used about 6 oz. of water so you may have to adjust your food coloring depending on how much water is added to your containers. We added the following drops of food coloring to each jar:

Sunlight Zone -- we touched a toothpick to the blue food coloring and then tipped it into the bottle

Twilight Zone -- 1 drop blue

Midnight Zone -- 2 drops blue

Abyss -- 4 drops blue

Trenches -- 5 drops blue, 2 drops green & 1 drop red

5 Layers of the Ocean in Jars

Now comes the cool part -- stack your containers!

Be sure to refer back to your books and reading about the types of animals that live in the various zones. It's very clear that most of the marine animals live in the Sunlight Zone, a few live in the Twilight Zone and as you progress deeper into the ocean, you find those layers are less populated.