

Ocean in a Jar

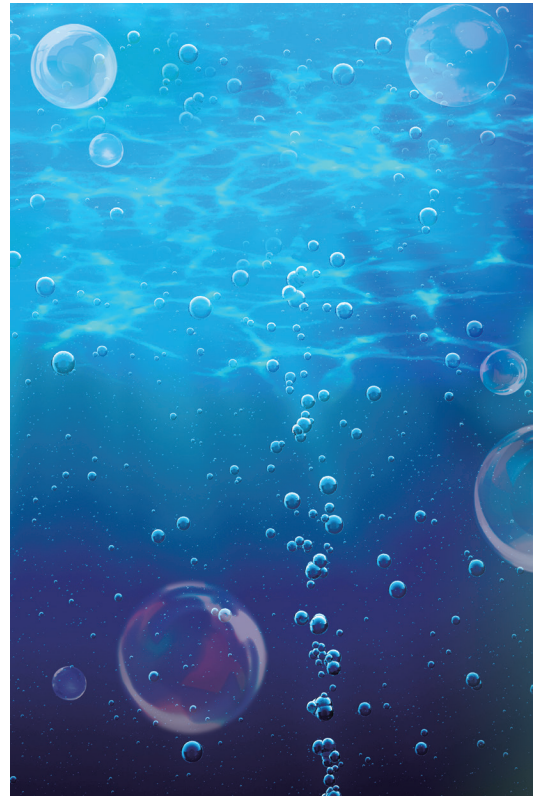
SUGGESTED AGE:

Ages 3+ (with adult assistance)

The ocean is divided into three zones—the sunlight zone, twilight zone, and midnight zone. These zones are determined by how much sunlight they receive from the surface. In the deepest parts of the ocean, known as the “midnight zone”, there is no visible light. Animals that live in the midnight zone have special adaptations to help them survive in complete darkness and very cold water! In this activity, create your own “ocean in a jar” with the three ocean zones.

WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cooking oil
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup corn syrup
- Food coloring (green, blue, and red)
- Large clear jar
- Funnel
- Tape



STEP 1

In a bowl, add drops of all three colors of the food coloring to the corn syrup. Mix together until it turns black. Using the funnel, add it to the jar. This is the **Midnight Zone**.

STEP 2

In a clean bowl, add several drops of blue food coloring to the water. Mix until it turns dark blue. Using the funnel, add the water to the jar. This is the **Twilight Zone**.

STEP 3

Use the funnel to add the cooking oil to the jar. This is the **Sunlight Zone**.

STEP 4

Use tape to label each layer on the jar.

STEP 5

Observe the layers and consider what specific challenges animals that live in each zone might face.

