

A GLOSSARY OF OCEAN TERMS



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Mammal

A mammal is a warm blooded animal that breathes air.



A whale & dolphin are a mammal.

Fish

A fish is a water animal that breathes with gills.



We saw a fish at the aquarium.

Shellfish

A shellfish is a water animal that has a shell for an outer covering.



A chank, mussel & shrimp are an example of a shellfish.

Bivalve Shell

A bivalve shell is a shell that has 2 parts.



A clam has a bivalve shell.

Univalve Shell

A univalve shell is a shell that has 1 part.



A snail has a univalve shell.

Ocean

An **ocean** is the largest body of water.



There are 4 **oceans** on the Earth.

Sea

A sea is a part of an ocean.



Mediterranean Sea

The Indian Ocean has several seas.

Bay

A Bay is a part of Sea.



River

A river is a body of flowing water within 2 banks.



Cauvery River

Creek

A creek is a small body of flowing water that empties into a river.



We took trash out of the creek behind our University.

Lake

A lake is a large body of water surrounded by land on all sides.



Puzhal Lake

Mountain

A mountain is a very high, natural place on Earth.



Mount Everest

Valley

A valley is an area between mountains or hills.



Volcano



A volcano is a mountain with a vent. When it erupts lava, ashes, and hot gases come out.



There was smoke coming from the volcano.

Plateau

A plateau is high land with a mostly flat top. This is called a guyot when it is found in the ocean.



The Indians made their camp on the plateau.

Plain

A **plain** is a large, flat area of land.



Ocean Floor

The **ocean floor** is the bottom of the ocean.



Many animals live on the **ocean floor**.

Island



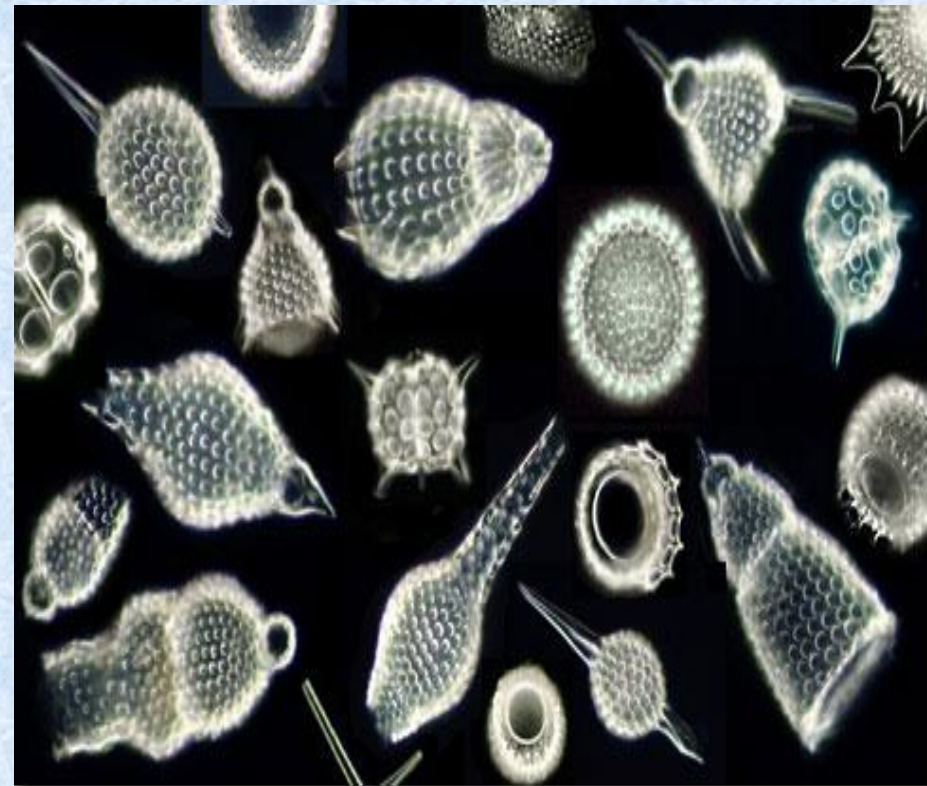
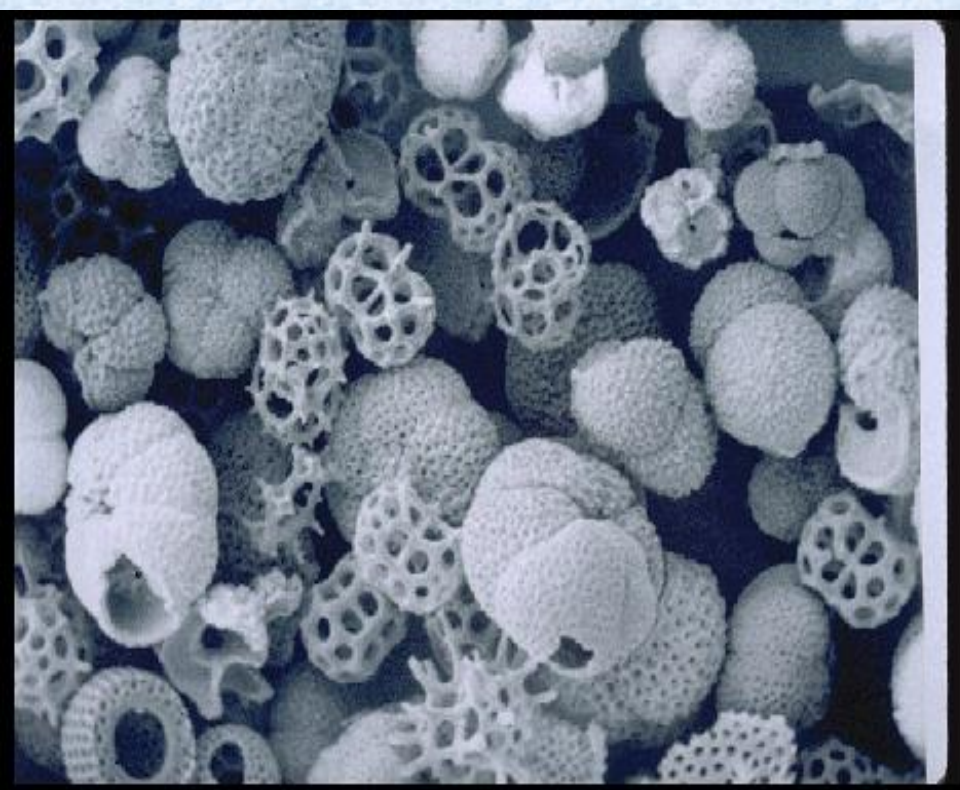
An **island** is a piece of land completely surrounded by water.



Hawaii is an **island** in the Pacific Ocean.

Ooze

Ooze is a covering of dead animals and plants on the ocean floor.



The octopus hid in the ooze.

Tidal Pools

A **tidal pool** is formed in the shallow places of the beach after the tide has gone down.

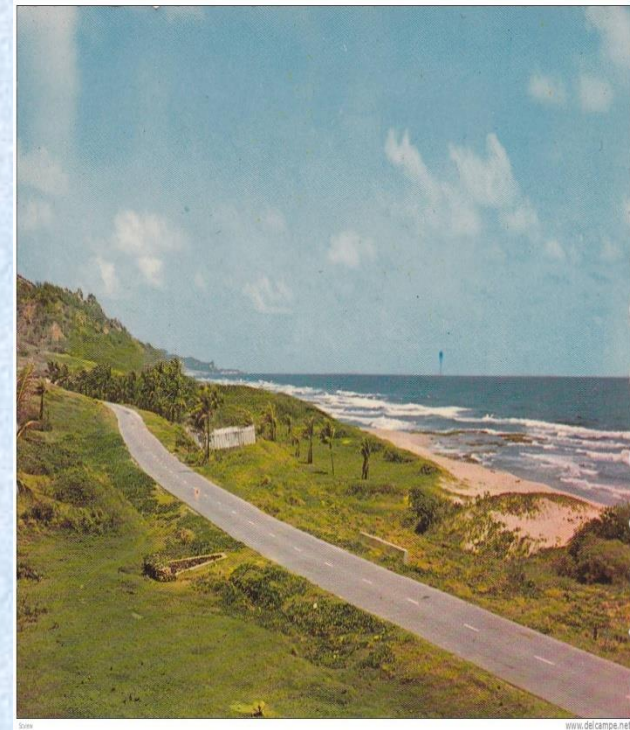


Tidal pools are filled with ocean life.

Shore Beach Coast



All of these words describe the area where land meets the ocean.



We walked along the **shore** and watched the waves.

Coral Reef

A coral reef is a collection of living organisms in the ocean.



The coral reef near Australia is the largest in the world.

Mangroves

A mangrove is a salt tolerant tress and shrubs in the intertidal region.



The mangrove in Sunderban is the largest in the world.

Estuaries

Where the river meet the sea.



The **Vellar estuary** in Parangipettai is the well known in Tamil Nadu.

Lagoon

Enclosed salt water body.



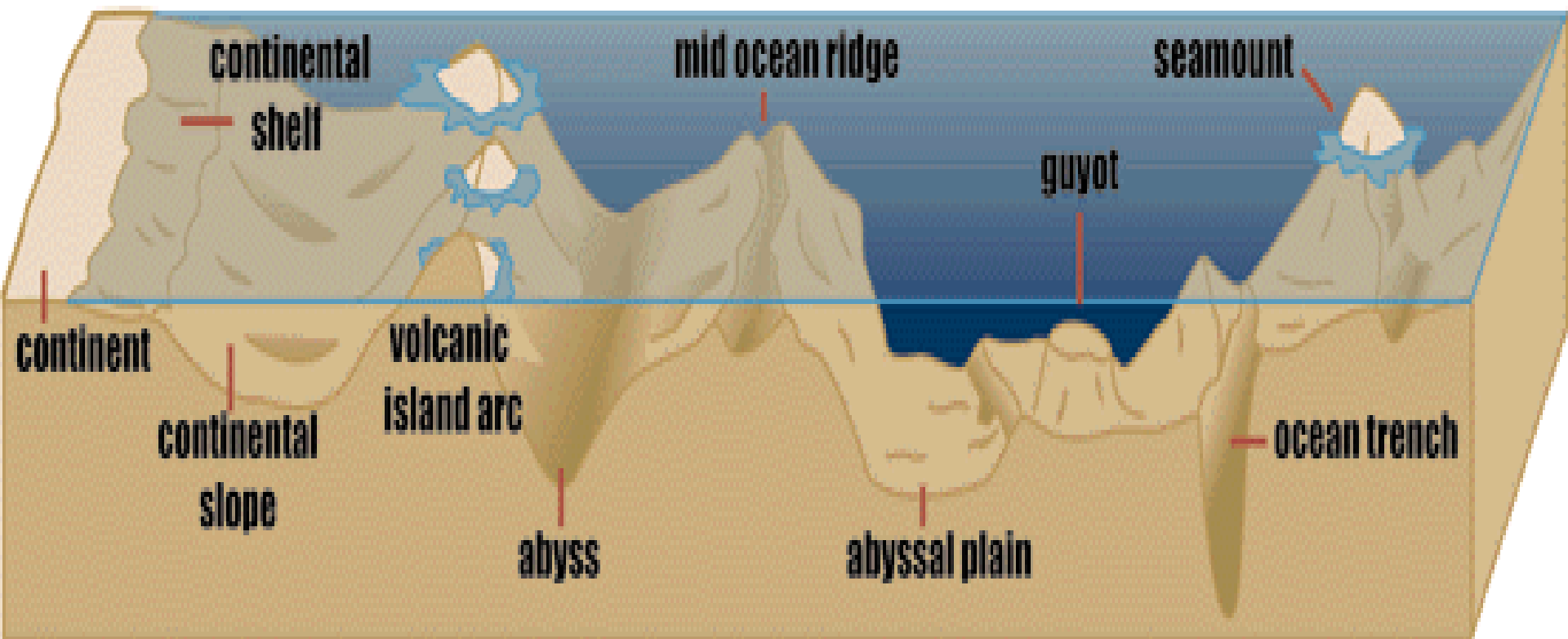
The **Chilka lagoon** in Orissa is the largest in India.

Continental Shelf

Continental Slope

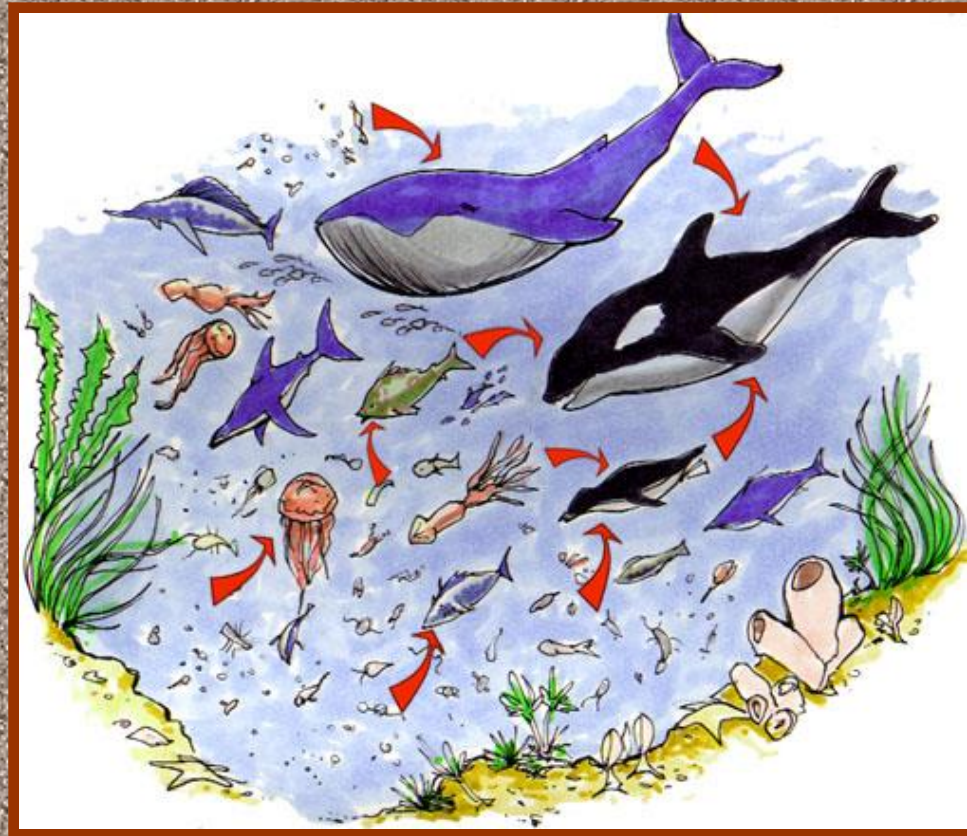
The continental shelf slopes gradually from the shore into the ocean.
The continental slope drops suddenly at the end of the shelf.

Features of the Ocean Floor



Food Chain

A **food chain** is a natural cycle where creatures rely on other organisms for food.



A **food chain** makes it possible for animals to survive.

Harbor

A harbor is a place in the water where boats can dock or anchor.



We went to the harbor to meet the boat.

Plankton

Plankton is small, microscopic plants and animals in the ocean.



Plankton is the first part of a food chain for many animals.

Aquarium

An aquarium is a building people can visit to see marine animals.



My class saw a dolphin at the aquarium.

Kelp

Kelp is a type of seaweed that is usually brown.



Some fish hide from their predators in **kelp** forests.

Seaweed

Seaweeds are non-flowering plants in the ocean.



 algaeBASE

There are many different kinds of seaweed in the ocean.

Seagrass

Seagrasses are a type of submerged aquatic flowering plants.



There are many different kinds of seagrass in the ocean.

Salt marsh

A **salt marsh** is an halophytic (salt-tolerant) plants such as herbs, grasses or low shrubs found in the upper coastal intertidal zone between land and salty or brackishwater.



There are many different kinds of **salt marshes** in the intertidal region.

Oceanographer



I would like to be an **oceanographer**.

Physical Oceanographer

A **physical oceanographer** is a scientist who studies the physics of the ocean.



Chemical Oceanographer

A **chemical oceanographer** is a scientist who studies the chemistry of the ocean.



Biological Oceanographer

A **Biological Oceanographer** is a scientist who studies the life of the ocean.



I would like to be a **Biological oceanographer**.