

19 Marine Biology

Marine biology is the study of ocean organisms. Most life on Earth exists in the ocean. The ocean covers 71% of the Earth's **surface**. Scientists expect to discover many new ocean species in the future. The habitats studied in marine biology include everything from tiny layers of surface water where organisms live, to the deepest regions which are sometimes 10,000 meters below the surface. Habitats include **coral reefs**, seaweed forests, and the ocean floor which can be muddy, sandy, or rocky. Marine biologists divide the ocean into the **coastal** areas, and the "open ocean" where only the water surface is visible. Marine organisms range from microscopic plankton and krill to huge whales 30 meters long. Marine life is an important resource, providing food, medicine, and raw materials. People enjoy sea activities such as diving, snorkeling, and boating. Finally, marine organisms contribute significantly to the **oxygen** cycle, and help regulate the global climate.

Check the above bold words, read the paragraph, then brainstorm more vocabulary below.



stingray



clownfish protected by anemones



dolphin

blue whale / krill



blue-footed booby

seahorse

