Ocean Trivia

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. What gives ordinary seawater its salty taste?
   - A. Dissolved salts
   - B. Dissolved oxygen
   - C. Suspended sand
   - D. Heat stored near the surface

2. Which named ocean region does NOAA identify as surrounding Antarctica?
   - A. Indian Ocean
   - B. Arctic Ocean
   - C. Southern Ocean
   - D. Atlantic Ocean

3. A sheltered coastal waterway receives fresh river water and salty ocean water. What is this kind of waterway called?
   - A. A tidal flat
   - B. An estuary
   - C. A continental shelf
   - D. A reef crest

4. Reef-building corals consist of tiny organisms called polyps. What kind of organisms are the polyps?
   - A. Algae
   - B. Plants
   - C. Fungi
   - D. Animals

5. What is the collective term for organisms that drift with currents because they cannot swim strongly enough to resist them?
   - A. Nekton
   - B. Plankton
   - C. Benthos
   - D. Reef builders

6. Which object makes the largest contribution to the forces that generate Earth's ocean tides?

A. The Moon
B. The Sun
C. Jupiter
D. Mars

7. Which warm current flows north along part of the eastern United States before continuing into the North Atlantic?

A. Canary Current
B. Labrador Current
C. California Current
D. Gulf Stream

8. What name describes the upper ocean zone with enough sunlight for widespread photosynthesis?

A. Twilight zone
B. Midnight zone
C. Euphotic zone
D. Abyssal zone

9. Surface water moves away from a coast and colder, nutrient-rich water rises to replace it. What process is this?

A. Upwelling
B. Evaporation
C. Downwelling
D. Sedimentation

10. Estimate total pressure at 30 meters below the ocean surface if it is 1 atmosphere at the surface and rises by about 1 atmosphere every 10 meters.

A. 30 atmospheres
B. 3 atmospheres
C. 2 atmospheres
D. 4 atmospheres

11. A map shows the relatively shallow submerged edge of a continent before the seafloor drops down a steeper slope. What is that shallow area?

A. Mid-ocean ridge
B. Continental slope
C. Continental shelf
D. Abyssal plain

12. Some marine organisms generate light through a chemical reaction in their bodies. What is this ability called?

A. Fluorescence
B. Bioluminescence
C. Phosphorescence
D. Reflection

13. Two oceanic plates move apart, and rising molten rock cools to form new crust. What seafloor feature commonly forms along this boundary?

A. An ocean trench
B. A continental shelf
C. A submarine canyon
D. A mid-ocean ridge

14. At new moon and full moon, the Sun, Moon, and Earth are nearly aligned. How does that typically affect the local difference between high and low tide?

A. The difference becomes larger
B. The difference becomes smaller
C. The high and low tides reach the same height
D. The difference stays exactly the same

15. At a dark hydrothermal vent, some microbes use chemical energy from reactions involving vent fluids to make organic matter. What is this process called?

A. Evaporation
B. Photosynthesis
C. Chemosynthesis
D. Mechanical digestion