Name: _____ Date: _____

The Ocean's Twilight Zone Elevator

Circle group

Sunlight does not go far into the sea. The top layer is bright. Deeper down it gets dim. Farther down it is all dark. The dim layer in the middle is called the twilight zone. Twilight is the dim light after the sun sets.

Many animals live there, such as small fish and shrimp-like creatures. Many have big eyes to see the faint light. Some make their own light. This glow is called bioluminescence. A fish may flash a small light to confuse an enemy or to find food.

Every night, a huge parade of these animals swims up. They rise toward the top to eat tiny floating plants and other food. They go up in the dark, where hunters cannot spot them as easily. When the sun comes up, they swim back down and hide in the dim water.

This daily trip is one of the biggest animal moves on Earth. It is like an elevator that rides up at dusk and down at dawn.

Questions

1. What is the twilight zone of the ocean?

_____

_____

2. What do many animals there have to help them see?

_____

_____

3. What is bioluminescence?

_____

_____

4. When do the animals swim up?

_____

_____

5. Why might they go up in the dark?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage say it is like an elevator?

_____

_____

Words to know

twilight: the dim light after the sun has set
bioluminescence: light made by a living animal
faint: weak and hard to see
parade: a long line of many things moving along together

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Ocean's Twilight Zone Elevator

Triangle group

Sunlight does not reach very far into the sea. The bright top layer is full of light, but deeper down it grows dim, and farther down it is completely dark. The dim layer in between is called the twilight zone, much like the time of day when the sun has just set.

Many animals live there, including small fish and shrimp-like creatures. Many of them have big eyes that help them see the faint light. Some can make their own light. This glow is called bioluminescence. A fish may flash a small light to confuse an enemy or to attract food.

Every night, an enormous parade of these animals swims upward. They rise toward the surface to eat tiny floating plants and other food. They go up in the dark, where it is harder for hunters to spot them. When the sun comes up, they swim back down into the dim water and hide for the day.

This daily trip is one of the biggest movements of animals on Earth. It is a bit like an elevator that rides up at dusk and down at dawn.

Questions

1. What is the twilight zone of the ocean?

_____

_____

2. What do many animals in the twilight zone have to help them see?

_____

_____

3. What is bioluminescence?

_____

_____

4. When do the animals swim up toward the surface?

_____

_____

5. Why might the animals go up in the dark instead of in the daytime?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage compare the trip to an elevator?

_____

_____

Words to know

twilight: the dim light after the sun has set
bioluminescence: light made by a living animal
faint: weak and hard to see
parade: a long line of many things moving along together

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Ocean's Twilight Zone Elevator

Square group

Sunlight penetrates only a limited distance into the sea. The uppermost layer is bright, but deeper down the light grows dim, and farther still the water is completely dark. The dim layer in between is known as the twilight zone, named for the time of day just after the sun has set.

A great many animals inhabit this region, including small fish and shrimp-like creatures. Numerous species have enormous eyes that help them detect the faint light. Others can produce their own light, a glow called bioluminescence. A fish may flash a tiny light to confuse an enemy or to lure in its food.

Every night, an enormous parade of these animals swims upward. They climb toward the surface to feed on tiny floating plants and other food, traveling under the cover of darkness, when it is harder for hunters to spot them. When the sun rises, they swim back down into the dim water and hide for the day.

This daily journey is one of the largest movements of animals on Earth. It resembles an elevator that rides upward at dusk and downward at dawn.

Questions

1. What is the twilight zone of the ocean?

_____

_____

2. What do numerous species have that helps them detect faint light?

_____

_____

3. What is bioluminescence?

_____

_____

4. When do these animals swim upward toward the surface?

_____

_____

5. Why might the animals travel under the cover of darkness?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage compare the journey to an elevator?

_____

_____

Words to know

twilight: the dim light after the sun has set
bioluminescence: light made by a living animal
faint: weak and hard to see
parade: a long line of many things moving along together

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Ocean's Twilight Zone Elevator

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Ocean's Twilight Zone Elevator

Easier · 167 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. The dim layer of water between the bright top and the dark deep.
2. Big eyes.
3. The glow that some animals make themselves.
4. Every night.
5. Hunters cannot spot them as easily in the dark.
6. The animals ride up each evening and down each morning.

Triangle: The Ocean's Twilight Zone Elevator

This passage · 187 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.7

1. The dim layer of water between the bright top layer and the dark deep.
2. Big eyes.
3. The glow that some animals make themselves.
4. Every night.
5. It is harder for hunters to spot them in the dark.
6. The animals ride up each evening and back down each morning.

Square: The Ocean's Twilight Zone Elevator

Harder · 187 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.5

1. The dim layer of water between the bright upper layer and the dark deep.
2. Enormous eyes.
3. A glow that some animals produce themselves.
4. Every night.
5. It is harder for hunters to spot them in the dark.
6. The animals ride upward at dusk and downward at dawn.