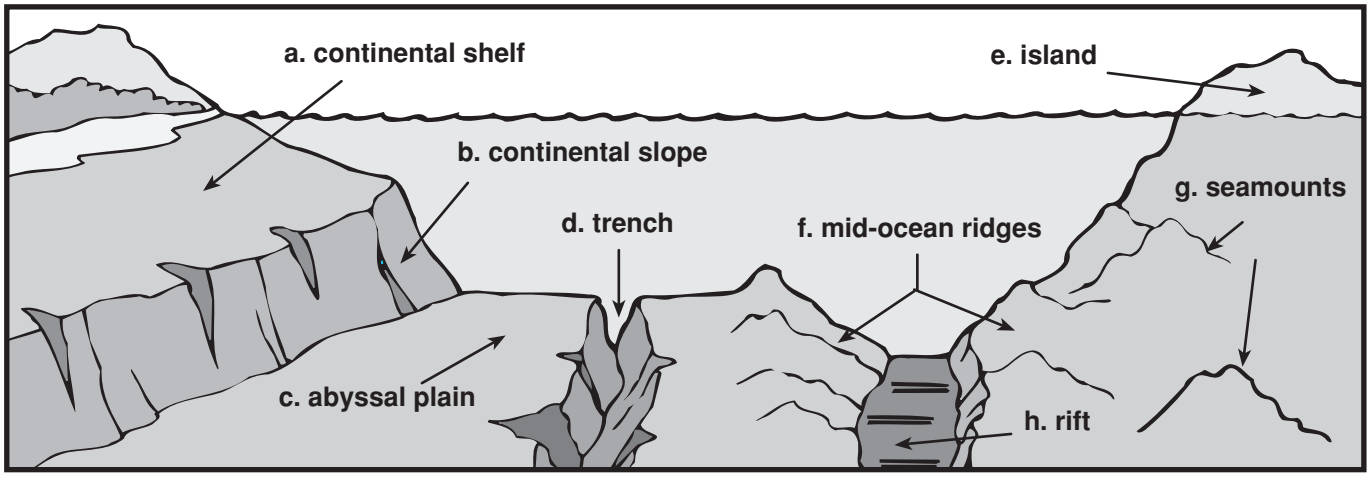
Name _____ Date _____

Ocean-Floor Adventure

Imagine yourself on a field trip crossing the ocean floor. What sights do you think you would see? Find out by following the directions below.

Directions: Each flipper describes an ocean-floor feature. Use the diagram to help you decide which feature is being described. Then write its corresponding letter on the flipper.



1. ____ a chain of mountains that runs through the three major oceans (most stand about 5,000 feet above the seafloor)

2. ____ a submerged area that rims the land, beginning at the shoreline and gently sloping underwater to an average depth of about 430 feet

3. ____ a mountain that breaks through the surface of the water

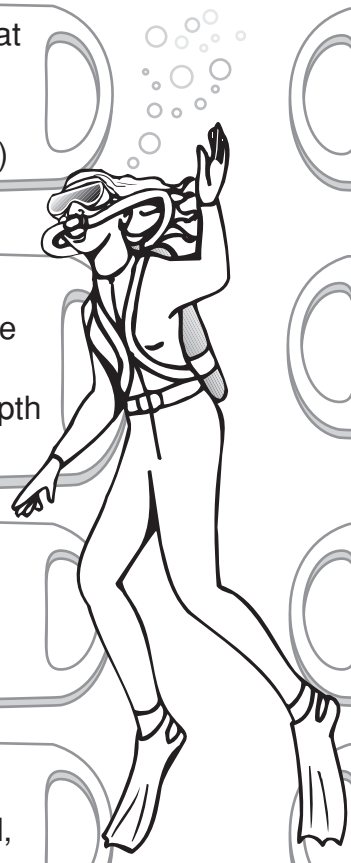
4. ____a flat area of the ocean floor, covered with sand, mud, and plant and animal remains

5. ____ a steep-sided valley at the center of a mid-ocean ridge

6. ____ a long, narrow, steep-sided valley that forms the deepest parts of the ocean

7. ____ a steep drop-off from the continental shelf that plunges to depths of $2^1/_4$ miles

8. ____ underwater mountains formed by erupting volcanoes



Bonus Box: If the continental slope extends to a depth of $2^1/_4$ miles, how many *feet* deep does it plunge?
Hint: 5,280 feet = 1 mile

How To Use Page 45

"Ocean-Floor Adventure"

1. If desired, share the background information on this page with students. Then give each student a copy of page 45.
2. Discuss the directions with students; then instruct each student to complete the activity.
3. After each student has completed the page, discuss the answers as a class.

Background For The Teacher

The ocean's floor is a realm of spectacular features, as varied as those on land. These features include huge plains, towering mountains, volcanoes, and deep trenches and valleys. The world ocean has an average depth of 12,200 feet. Its floor is in constant motion, spreading about one to five inches every year. The Mariana Trench in the western Pacific Ocean is the deepest point on the earth at 36,198 feet below sea level.

Answer Key

1. f
2. a
3. e
4. c
5. h
6. d
7. b
8. g

Bonus Box answer: 11,880 feet