

Reading & Writing (Grade 5)

Grade 5 · Ages 10-11 · Reading · Reading Comprehension · ★★

Read the passage. Circle the best answer for the multiple-choice questions, then write your own answers on the lines.

Deep beneath the ocean surface, where sunlight cannot reach, lives one of Earth's most mysterious creatures: the bioluminescent anglerfish. Found in the pitch-black depths of oceans around the world, this remarkable fish has a glowing lure that dangles from its head like a fishing rod; the light is made by tiny bacteria that live inside the lure. The anglerfish uses this eerie blue-green glow to attract curious prey in the darkness. What makes the anglerfish even more fascinating is how it survives without much food in such a harsh environment — its stomach can stretch to swallow prey twice its own size. Scientists studying deep-sea ecosystems have discovered that bioluminescence, the ability to produce light naturally, is far more common in deep-sea creatures than previously thought, suggesting the dark ocean floor is far more alive than it appears.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - (A) The ocean floor is completely empty and very difficult to explore.
 - (B) Scientists study many different types of ocean fish.
 - (C) The anglerfish is a remarkable deep-sea creature that uses light to survive in total darkness.
 - (D) Bioluminescence is a rare ability found only in the anglerfish.

2. According to the passage, how does the anglerfish attract its prey?
 - (A) It chases prey at high speed through the water.
 - (B) It releases chemicals that smell like food.
 - (C) It makes loud sounds to confuse other animals.
 - (D) It uses a glowing lure that hangs from its head.

3. In the passage, what does the word 'bioluminescence' mean?
 - (A) The ability to survive without any food for long periods
 - (B) The natural ability of a living thing to produce its own light
 - (C) A type of deep-sea fishing technique used by scientists
 - (D) A chemical that makes ocean water glow blue-green

4. Based on the passage, what can you infer about the deep ocean?
- (A) It contains more living creatures than scientists once believed.
 - (B) It is too dangerous for any creature to survive there.
 - (C) It is well lit because so many animals produce light.
 - (D) It has only recently been discovered by researchers.

5. Do you think the anglerfish is well adapted to life in the deep ocean? Use at least two details from the passage to support your opinion in 2–3 sentences.

6. In your own words, summarize what scientists have learned about the deep ocean from studying creatures like the anglerfish. Write 2–3 sentences.

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1. What is the main idea of this passage?

Answer: (C) The anglerfish is a remarkable deep-sea creature that uses light to survive in total darkness.

2. According to the passage, how does the anglerfish attract its prey?

Answer: (D) It uses a glowing lure that hangs from its head.

3. In the passage, what does the word 'bioluminescence' mean?

Answer: (B) The natural ability of a living thing to produce its own light

4. Based on the passage, what can you infer about the deep ocean?

Answer: (A) It contains more living creatures than scientists once believed.

5. Do you think the anglerfish is well adapted to life in the deep ocean? Use at least two details from the passage to support your opinion in 2–3 sentences.

Sample response: I think the anglerfish is extremely well adapted to deep-ocean life. Its bioluminescent lure helps it attract prey in total darkness where no sunlight reaches, and its stretchy stomach allows it to swallow prey twice its own size, meaning it can survive even when food is scarce. These two features make it perfectly suited for such a harsh environment.

6. In your own words, summarize what scientists have learned about the deep ocean from studying creatures like the anglerfish. Write 2–3 sentences.

Sample response: Scientists have discovered that the deep ocean is much more full of life than they once thought. By studying creatures like the anglerfish, they have found that bioluminescence — the ability to make natural light — is surprisingly common among deep-sea animals. This suggests that even in the darkest, most extreme parts of the ocean, life has found clever ways to thrive.