



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Ocean Vocabulary

wave period  
 Coriolis effect  
 trough  
 crest  
 surface current

breaker  
 swelling  
 high tide  
 spring tides  
 storm surge

El Nino  
 whitecap  
 tsunami  
 low tide  
 wavelength

neap tides  
 tidal range  
 deep current  
 surf  
 upwelling

## Matching

Match each definition with a word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Lowest point of a wave
2. \_\_\_\_\_ a white, foaming wave with a very steep crest that breaks in the open ocean before the wave gets close to the shore
3. \_\_\_\_\_ A curving of a moving object from a straight path due to the Earth's rotation.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ An ocean current formed when steady winds blow over the surface of the ocean.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ rolling waves that move in a steady procession across the ocean
6. \_\_\_\_\_ when the ocean tide reaches the highest point on the shoreline
7. \_\_\_\_\_ An abnormal climate event that occurs every 2 to 7 years in the Pacific Ocean, causing changes in winds, currents, and weather patterns, that can lead to dramatic changes.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ a wave that forms when a large volume of ocean water is suddenly moved up or down
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The distance between two adjacent wave crests or wave troughs
10. \_\_\_\_\_ tides with minimum daily tidal range that occur during the first and third quarters of the moon
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Highest point of a wave
12. \_\_\_\_\_ a process in which cold, nutrient-rich water from the deep ocean rises to the surface and replaces warm surface water
13. \_\_\_\_\_ ocean tide at its lowest point on the shore
14. \_\_\_\_\_ the area between the breaker zone and the shore
15. \_\_\_\_\_ the time between the passage of two wave crests or troughs at a fixed point
16. \_\_\_\_\_ a heightened water wave that begins to tumble downward, or break, upon nearing the shore
17. \_\_\_\_\_ the difference between levels of ocean water at high tide and low tide
18. \_\_\_\_\_ a local rise in sea level near the shore that is caused by strong winds from a storm, such as a hurricane



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_ streamlike movements of ocean water located far below the surface
20. \_\_\_\_\_ tides with maximum daily tidal range that occur during the new and full moons

## Multiple Choice

Select the definition that most nearly defines the given word.

21. \_\_\_\_\_ **storm surge**  
 A. a heightened water wave that begins to tumble downward, or break, upon nearing the shore  
 B. Lowest point of a wave  
 C. a local rise in sea level near the shore that is caused by strong winds from a storm, such as a hurricane  
 D. rolling waves that move in a steady procession across the ocean
22. \_\_\_\_\_ **breaker**  
 A. a white, foaming wave with a very steep crest that breaks in the open ocean before the wave gets close to the shore  
 B. a wave that forms when a large volume of ocean water is suddenly moved up or down  
 C. when the ocean tide reaches the highest point on the shoreline  
 D. a heightened water wave that begins to tumble downward, or break, upon nearing the shore
23. \_\_\_\_\_ **surface current**  
 A. tides with minimum daily tidal range that occur during the first and third quarters of the moon  
 B. An ocean current formed when steady winds blow over the surface of the ocean.  
 C. Highest point of a wave  
 D. An abnormal climate event that occurs every 2 to 7 years in the Pacific Ocean, causing changes in winds, currents, and weather patterns, that can lead to dramatic changes.
24. \_\_\_\_\_ **neap tides**  
 A. the time between the passage of two wave crests or troughs at a fixed point  
 B. tides with minimum daily tidal range that occur during the first and third quarters of the moon  
 C. ocean tide at its lowest point on the shore  
 D. a process in which cold, nutrient-rich water from the deep ocean rises to the surface and replaces warm surface water
25. \_\_\_\_\_ **surf**  
 A. A curving of a moving object from a straight path due to the Earth's rotation.  
 B. the area between the breaker zone and the shore  
 C. tides with maximum daily tidal range that occur during the new and full moons  
 D. the difference between levels of ocean water at high tide and low tide
26. \_\_\_\_\_ **tsunami**  
 A. a wave that forms when a large volume of ocean water is suddenly moved up or down  
 B. streamlike movements of ocean water located far below the surface  
 C. a local rise in sea level near the shore that is caused by strong winds from a storm, such as a hurricane  
 D. The distance between two adjacent wave crests or wave troughs



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

27. \_\_\_\_\_ **crest**  
 A. the difference between levels of ocean water at high tide and low tide  
 B. ocean tide at its lowest point on the shore  
 C. Highest point of a wave  
 D. The distance between two adjacent wave crests or wave troughs
28. \_\_\_\_\_ **tidal range**  
 A. rolling waves that move in a steady procession across the ocean  
 B. a white, foaming wave with a very steep crest that breaks in the open ocean before the wave gets close to the shore  
 C. An ocean current formed when steady winds blow over the surface of the ocean.  
 D. the difference between levels of ocean water at high tide and low tide
29. \_\_\_\_\_ **swelling**  
 A. rolling waves that move in a steady procession across the ocean  
 B. the time between the passage of two wave crests or troughs at a fixed point  
 C. when the ocean tide reaches the highest point on the shoreline  
 D. a heightened water wave that begins to tumble downward, or break, upon nearing the shore
30. \_\_\_\_\_ **whitecap**  
 A. Highest point of a wave  
 B. a white, foaming wave with a very steep crest that breaks in the open ocean before the wave gets close to the shore  
 C. a process in which cold, nutrient-rich water from the deep ocean rises to the surface and replaces warm surface water  
 D. tides with minimum daily tidal range that occur during the first and third quarters of the moon
31. \_\_\_\_\_ **trough**  
 A. a local rise in sea level near the shore that is caused by strong winds from a storm, such as a hurricane  
 B. the area between the breaker zone and the shore  
 C. An abnormal climate event that occurs every 2 to 7 years in the Pacific Ocean, causing changes in winds, currents, and weather patterns, that can lead to dramatic changes.  
 D. Lowest point of a wave
32. \_\_\_\_\_ **El Nino**  
 A. a wave that forms when a large volume of ocean water is suddenly moved up or down  
 B. An abnormal climate event that occurs every 2 to 7 years in the Pacific Ocean, causing changes in winds, currents, and weather patterns, that can lead to dramatic changes.  
 C. streamlike movements of ocean water located far below the surface  
 D. tides with maximum daily tidal range that occur during the new and full moons
33. \_\_\_\_\_ **deep current**  
 A. A curving of a moving object from a straight path due to the Earth's rotation.  
 B. Lowest point of a wave  
 C. streamlike movements of ocean water located far below the surface  
 D. tides with minimum daily tidal range that occur during the first and third quarters of the moon
34. \_\_\_\_\_ **high tide**  
 A. Lowest point of a wave  
 B. a heightened water wave that begins to tumble downward, or break, upon nearing the shore



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- C. when the ocean tide reaches the highest point on the shoreline  
 D. tides with maximum daily tidal range that occur during the new and full moons

35. \_\_\_\_\_

**spring tides**

- A. a wave that forms when a large volume of ocean water is suddenly moved up or down  
 B. a white, foaming wave with a very steep crest that breaks in the open ocean before the wave gets close to the shore  
 C. streamlike movements of ocean water located far below the surface  
 D. tides with maximum daily tidal range that occur during the new and full moons

36. \_\_\_\_\_

**wavelength**

- A. when the ocean tide reaches the highest point on the shoreline  
 B. the time between the passage of two wave crests or troughs at a fixed point  
 C. The distance between two adjacent wave crests or wave troughs  
 D. a process in which cold, nutrient-rich water from the deep ocean rises to the surface and replaces warm surface water

37. \_\_\_\_\_

**wave period**

- A. A curving of a moving object from a straight path due to the Earth's rotation.  
 B. An ocean current formed when steady winds blow over the surface of the ocean.  
 C. the time between the passage of two wave crests or troughs at a fixed point  
 D. the area between the breaker zone and the shore

38. \_\_\_\_\_

**Coriolis effect**

- A. An abnormal climate event that occurs every 2 to 7 years in the Pacific Ocean, causing changes in winds, currents, and weather patterns, that can lead to dramatic changes.  
 B. ocean tide at its lowest point on the shore  
 C. A curving of a moving object from a straight path due to the Earth's rotation.  
 D. the difference between levels of ocean water at high tide and low tide

39. \_\_\_\_\_

**low tide**

- A. ocean tide at its lowest point on the shore  
 B. a local rise in sea level near the shore that is caused by strong winds from a storm, such as a hurricane  
 C. rolling waves that move in a steady procession across the ocean  
 D. The distance between two adjacent wave crests or wave troughs

40. \_\_\_\_\_

**upwelling**

- A. a process in which cold, nutrient-rich water from the deep ocean rises to the surface and replaces warm surface water  
 B. Highest point of a wave  
 C. the time between the passage of two wave crests or troughs at a fixed point  
 D. A curving of a moving object from a straight path due to the Earth's rotation.

# Answer Key

1. trough
2. whitecap
3. Coriolis effect
4. surface current
5. swelling
6. high tide
7. El Nino
8. tsunami
9. wavelength
10. neap tides
11. crest
12. upwelling
13. low tide
14. surf
15. wave period
16. breaker
17. tidal range
18. storm surge
19. deep current
20. spring tides
21. C
22. D
23. B
24. B
25. B
26. A
27. C
28. D
29. A
30. B
31. D
32. B
33. C
34. C
35. D
36. C
37. C
38. C
39. A
40. A