

## **The Neptune Project/Marine Life Scavenger Hunt**

I challenge you to dive in to some ocean explorations of your own. In the course of doing research for my books *The Neptune Project* and *The Neptune Challenge*, I came across all sorts of wonderful sites on the Internet where kids can find out more about the sea.

Go to: <http://www.noaa.gov/ocean.html>

And find out:

- 1. What does NOAA stand for?**
- 2. How much of our oceans remain unexplored?**
- 3. What percent of our population lives along coastlines?**

Go to: <http://deepseachallenge.com/>

And find out:

- 4. What famous movie director and ocean explorer recently made the deepest solo submarine dive in history?**
- 5. How deep did he dive?**
- 6. Where did he dive?**

Go to: [http://www.dolphins.org/kids\\_dolphin\\_facts](http://www.dolphins.org/kids_dolphin_facts)

And find out:

- 7. Do dolphins drink water?**
- 8. Can dolphins see above water?**

Go to: <http://www.dolphins.org/acoustics> and click on the Types of Sounds tab

And find out:

**9. What three types of sounds do dolphins make? Make sure you listen to all three recordings. The “click here” links are in blue and embedded in the paragraphs of text. These sounds are super cool and very surprising!**

Go to: <http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com/ocean/photos/dangerous-sea-creatures/>

And find out:

**10. What are some of the most dangerous and deadly creatures in the sea?**

Go to: <http://oceantoday.noaa.gov/endoceansharks/>

And find out:

**11. Why are sharks so susceptible to fishing pressure (over fishing)?**

Go to: <http://ocean.si.edu/ocean-news/shark-finning-sharks-turned-prey>

And find out:

**12. What is the practice of shark finning?**

**13. Why do people do it?**

**14. Approximately how many sharks are killed each year?**

Go to: <http://www.pollyholyokey.com/undersea-gallery.php>

Try to:

**15. Guess at least five sea creatures in the photo gallery of Nere's undersea world and then list them.**

CONGRATULATIONS! You have completed my official Scavenger Hunt!

**Do you have extra time on your hands this summer?**

Go to: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/games.html>

And try making one of their cool projects or doing one of their cool experiments!

### **Answers to Scavenger Hunt:**

1. NOAA stands for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
2. NOAA states that 95% of the oceans still haven't been explored.
3. 40% of our population lives along a coast.
  
4. James Cameron
5. 35,787 ft or 10,908 meters
6. The Mariana Trench which is the deepest known place on Earth.
  
7. Dolphins do not drink seawater. They get all the water they need from the fish that they eat.
8. Dolphins have excellent vision both above and below water, and they can see in the dark like cats and dogs.
  
9. Dolphins make whistles, clicking sounds, and burst pulse sounds.

10. Possible correct answers from this site: striped sturgeonfish, barracudas, yellow sea anemone, moray eel, great white shark, whitespotted sturgeonfish, oyster toadfish, Indonesian needlefish, textile cone snail, saltwater crocodile and sea anemone.
11. Shark populations are so vulnerable to over-fishing because they take many years to mature, only have few young at a time, and are highly migratory.
12. Shark finning is the practice of cutting off a shark's fins and then tossing the rest of the shark back into the water to die.
13. People practice shark finning because shark fin soup is considered a delicacy in parts of Asia.
14. Approximately 100 million sharks are killed each year.
15. Possible right answers from this site include: Spanish shawl nudibranch, giant Pacific octopus, humpback whale, anemone/brittlestar, greenback sea turtle, bat ray, spiny lobster, sea otter, golden gorgonian/sea urchin, California sea lion, great white shark, red gorgonian, Pacific white-sided dolphins, angel shark, orange garibaldi, sheephead fish, wolf eel, leopard shark, elephant seal.