

Discovery Channel School Video Library for Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley Mathematics



SEGMENT 10: OCEANS

Oceans cover about three-fourths of the Earth.

But how do we explore this world, so foreign to our own? A hundred feet underwater, the pressure is four times greater than at the surface. Farther down, light fades and temperatures drop. The pressure and the cold are more than people can withstand. Even plant life gives way to sponges.

In 1934 zoologist William Beebe and engineer Otis Barton dangled from steel cable three thousand and twenty-eight feet below the surface in this tub called a bathysphere.

On a subsequent trip, the bathysphere was sent down empty. A window leaked. At the surface, the explorers were given a demonstration of water pressure at work.

Today, more sophisticated submersibles like the Nautilus can take explorers two and a half miles down.

From the windows of these deep-diving machines, scientists see into a world lit up by bioluminescent creatures, glowing with chemically produced lights.

But less than a dozen submarines have made it to these depths and returned. What other secrets are kept in the dark? There are worlds deeper still.

We know less about the ocean floor than the surface of the moon. Ninety-seven percent of the ocean floor remains unexplored.