

Part 2

You are going to read a newspaper article about exploring the oceans. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from sentences A–H the one which fits each gap (9–15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Filming the mysteries of the deep

More people have travelled into space than have dared venture into the deep ocean. The oceans cover 70 per cent of our planet. However, 60 per cent of their area is more than 1,000 metres below the surface, a depth at which very little has been explored. Below 200 metres there is a strange and gloomy world where very little life survives. [9] This vast black world is a desert, a bottomless hole. We know almost nothing about it.

Alistair Fothergill has just been down there to make *The Blue Planet*. This natural history documentary cost more, and took longer to make, than any other television series before it. [10] What is more, at least ten of these strange, wonderful and sometimes horrific groups of creatures were completely new to science.

Among the fish filmed for the first time was the Deep Sea Angler, which illuminates itself by bacteria in its body, and the Fangtooth, which has teeth so large that it can never close its mouth. Their most exciting discovery, however, was one which had never been heard of before, which they called the Hairy Angler fish. [11] And with its huge mouth, full of sharp teeth, it is therefore able to kill passing fish – even those far larger than itself – and put them into its expandable stomach. In the deep ocean, where there is very little food, it's important to eat whatever is available.

While Fothergill went to a depth of 'only 1,000 metres' to film these creatures, some specially trained members of his team descended a further 3,000 to visit the so-called 'black smokers' in the middle of the ocean. [12]

Until about 20 years ago, when these areas were found, all life on our planet was thought to be dependent on the sun's energy. The discovery of the smokers disproved that theory. 'We now realise that even right down at the very bottom of the deep ocean there are extraordinary pockets of life,' explains Fothergill. 'The energy comes from bacteria, that feed on salt from a rock. [13] The most amazing of these creatures are the tube worms, which are about two metres long, as thick as your arm, with bright red feathers. They have no stomach or mouth, but are completely packed full of bacteria.'

[14] 'But we'll be back,' he insists. 'The deepest point in the ocean, at more than 12,000 metres, is the Marianas Trench in the Pacific. There is still so much to discover down there in the depths of the sea. The giant squid, for instance, is the size of a London bus, and has never been seen alive.' What he would find even more thrilling, however, would be to discover the secrets of an even larger ocean creature.

[15] He explains that scientists are studying a big population which goes up and down the coast of California at an incredible speed of over 30 kilometres an hour, and then disappears under the surface for long periods at a time. However, American biologists have finally succeeded in attaching satellite tags to a few individuals. 'We're now getting some exciting information back to suggest that they're heading for a place off Costa Rica,' says Fothergill. 'That's where I want to go looking for them.'

- A The features from which it gets its name are actually sensors that can detect the slightest vibration made by other marine life nearby.
- B These are openings created when water flows through cracks in the sea bed, hits very hot volcanic rock and comes shooting out again.
- C Fothergill's most passionate ambition is to discover where the blue whale goes to have its young.
- D These tiny life forms, in turn, provide food for a whole range of 'new' animals.
- E At 1,000 metres there is permanent darkness, where the only light is created by the animals that live there.
- F Excited by these discoveries, Fothergill would have sent a camera down even further, but this proved impossible.
- G For a long time scientists thought they must be a completely different species of fish.
- H And in filming natural history, he made real history too, because his team found 50 species that had never been filmed before.