

Glossary

Basalt — A dark-colored volcanic *rock*. Basalt makes up much of the ocean floor.

Calcite — A common rock-forming *mineral* made of calcium carbonate.

Chalk — A soft light-colored rock made out of *calcite* from shells of marine plants and animals.

Coring — A way of collecting sediments from the bottom of the ocean by plunging a hollow tube into the sediments.

Fossil — The remains of plants and animals.

Limestone — A rock made out of calcite. It is the most important and most widely found carbonate rock.

Marble — A *metamorphic* rock formed from limestone.

Metamorphic — A type of rock formed from other rocks under very high pressure and very high heat.

Microfossil — A *fossil* that is so small it can only be seen through a microscope.

Minerals — Natural inorganic compounds that make up rocks.

Oceanographer — A scientist who studies the ocean.

Plankton — Plants and animals in the ocean that are carried by the ocean currents because they cannot move on their own.

Rocks — A mixture of one or more *minerals*.

Sandstone — A rock made up of sand grains stuck together.

Sediments — Any materials that have been broken up and deposited by wind, water, ice, or organisms.