

What do we call it?

You and another scientists are out in the field researching coral reefs off the coast of Florida. You bring back a net full of specimens as does your coworker. When you empty the nets onto a table you find that one of you has brought back a new species of coral. How would you go about naming that new species? Who would name it? How would you name it? What would you take into consideration when naming the new coral.

Where do we go?

You have just graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in aquatic ecosystems. You are now responsible for securing a job in your new field. Who would you want to work for? What would you be doing? Where would your job be? Why?

What to do?

You are researching the extremely endangered river dolphins in the Amazon River. While out observing one day, you see a canoe with a very malnourished indigenous family in it hunting the dolphins. When you approach to tell them that the dolphins are protected and cannot be hunted, they explain to you that this is the only way they will eat this week, and that their culture has been hunting these dolphins for hundreds of years.

What do you do? What do you say?

Who's responsible?

Who owns the ocean? Who is responsible to keep it clean? Who should make sure that we don't overfish it? Where should cleanup money come from?

What is this called?

We will be talking about classification in the coming weeks, whereby scientists have classified living organisms. It is now your job to classify all the pieces of clothing being worn by all your group members. You can use type, material, color, size, age, function, or something else that you come up with. Be sure to use a classification scheme that adequately describes the collection. Clearly define each category.

Is it alive?

As a group, compose a paragraph everybody agrees with that defines life. It should clearly show that rocks are not alive and that plants are alive. According to your definition, is fire alive? Why?

A new name.

We are constantly finding new landforms under the ocean? With increasing technology and better equipped exploration expeditions, we find new mountain ranges, sea floor rifts, volcanos, etc. As a group, propose new names for the 10 largest mountains found in a newly formed mountain range at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. Explain your reasoning for these names in 2 sentences under your list.

Is this safe?

Often we use drones or unmanned subs to search the ocean floor. Recently though, humans have travelled to the sea floor in a number of different research vessels. Knowing that any single mistake would mean death, would you be willing to go to the bottom of the ocean to experience something that nobody else has. Why or why not?