



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 08.09.2023

Article link : <https://bit.ly/44NtoOi> (**Our Deepest Dreams: Why Do We Prioritize Space Over the Mysteries of the Ocean?**)

1. Which of the following is not a reason why, according to the author, we prioritize exploration of space over the deep sea?

- A. Military funding, especially during the Cold War, was directed at space travel due to the tactical advantages patrolling the skies offers but deep-sea exploration was not seen to help militaristic ambition
- B. During the Cold War, both the United States and the Soviet Union wanted to inspire the public and the moon shot played a psychological role in furthering space exploration
- C. A sizable part of society will always avoid deep water out of an instinctual fear of the deep seas, especially its dark depths
- D. Regardless of belief, humans share the religious orientation that makes us look up to the sky for a better place and dread what lies beneath

Explanation : A

All options except A are true. Option A is incorrect: 'Of course, a sizable amount of military funding spilled into deep-sea exploration, too, especially during the time of Marie Tharp and Bruce Heezen, who collaborated to produce the first scientific map of the Atlantic Ocean floor in the 1950s'.

2. Space exploration and deep-sea exploration share all the following features except:

- A. The search for extreme life that thrives in severe conditions is shared by both fields
- B. Both space and the deep-sea contain 'dead zones' where no life exists
- C. Both deep-sea submersibles and extraterrestrial spacecraft endure similarly extreme conditions and are dispatched on lifelong journeys, never to be seen by humans again

D. In both fields, it is only the elite-military or scientific achievers or the super rich- who get to do the exploring

Explanation: B

Note the line, 'The term "dead zone" is a bit of a misnomer, because life persists there, as the forams prove.'

3. "Mat or no mat?" was the question of the Hercules expedition as:

A. The scientists were looking to study bacterial mats where forams and other microbial communities gather, but these mats could be wiped clean of life due to the Santa Barbara Basin flushing itself naturally

B. While dead zones occur naturally at the bottom of stagnant ponds and bodies of water, such as the Santa Barbara Basin, they are not easy to reach

C. The scientists were looking to study the extreme life on the sea floor but bacterial mats in the murky depths could impede microscopic life

D. None of the above

Explanation: A

Refer to the lines, 'The Santa Barbara Basin flushes itself sporadically, washing away the life that builds up on the bacterial mats. Without a mat, there would be no microscopic life for the scientists to sample and study.'