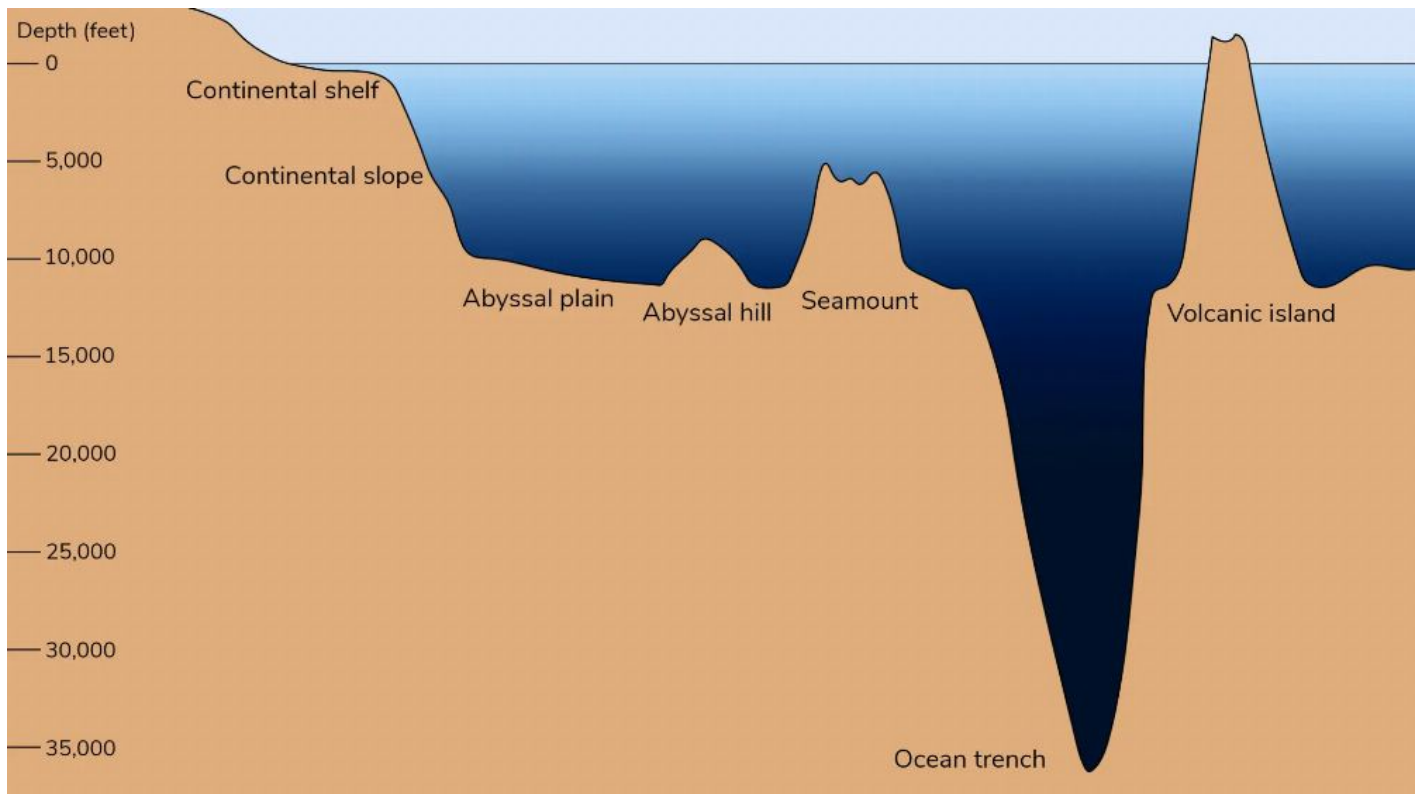


What are Abyssal Plains?

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About Abyssal Plains:

- The term 'abyssal plain' refers to a **flat region of the ocean floor**, usually at the **base of a continental rise**.
- **Depth variation** is usually only as much as **10 to 100 centimeters per kilometer** of horizontal distance.
- They can **range as far as thousands of kilometers, forming huge plateaus** beneath the sea.
- Abyssal plains are found on the ocean floor, usually **off the coast of major continental coastlines**.
 - However, there are significantly **more abyssal plains in the Atlantic Ocean** than in any other.
 - Some can be found within the Indian Ocean, but **very few exist in areas within the Pacific Ocean**.
 - Approximately **40% of Earth's Ocean floor is covered by abyssal plains**.
 - The **largest Abyssal plain** on Earth is called the **Sohm plain**. This plain can be found in the **North Atlantic Ocean**. It is 900,000 square kilometres.
- Abyssal plains **occur at depths greater than 6,500 feet (2,000 meters)** below sea level and are **underlain by oceanic crust composed primarily of basalt**, a dark-colored volcanic rock rich in iron- and magnesium-silicate minerals.
 - The **basalt is covered by layers of sediment deposited by deep ocean turbidity currents**, the **shells of marine plants and animals** that have fallen down from the ocean's upper levels, or a

combination of both.

- **Other minor components** of abyssal plain sediment **include wind-blown dust, volcanic ash, chemical precipitates**, and occasional **meteorite fragments**.
 - **Scattered across abyssal plains** are **abyssal hills** and underwater volcanic peaks called **seamounts**.
 - **On the other side** of the plain is usually an **oceanic trench**, where the seafloor dramatically plummets.
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Q1: What is continental rise?

Continental rise is a major depositional regime in oceans made up of thick sequences of continental material that accumulate between the continental slope and the abyssal plain. Continental rises form as a result of three sedimentary processes: mass wasting, the deposition from contour currents, and the vertical settling of clastic and biogenic particles.

Source: [Mysterious Unknown Deep-Sea Creatures Discovered on Abyssal Expedition](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/abyssal-plains/>

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