The Deepest Place on Earth

Name _____ **Date** _____

Read the passage. Answer in complete sentences.

The deepest place in all the oceans is a spot called the **Challenger Deep**. It sits at the bottom of the Mariana Trench in the western Pacific Ocean, not far from the island of Guam. It is about **36,000 feet** deep, almost 7 miles straight down.

Mount Everest, the tallest mountain above sea level, is about 29,032 feet tall. If you could drop Everest into the Challenger Deep, its peak would still be more than a mile underwater!

The water pressure at the bottom is more than 1,000 times the pressure at the surface. Even so, people have been there. In 1960, Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh rode a deep-sea vehicle called the *Trieste* to the bottom. In 2012, filmmaker James Cameron made the first solo dive. Scientists have found tiny creatures living even in this dark, freezing, crushing place.

Questions

1. **Where is the Challenger Deep?**

2. **About how much deeper is the Challenger Deep than Everest is tall? Show your math.**

3. **Why is it so hard to explore the bottom of the trench?**

4. **Who first reached the bottom, and when?**

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