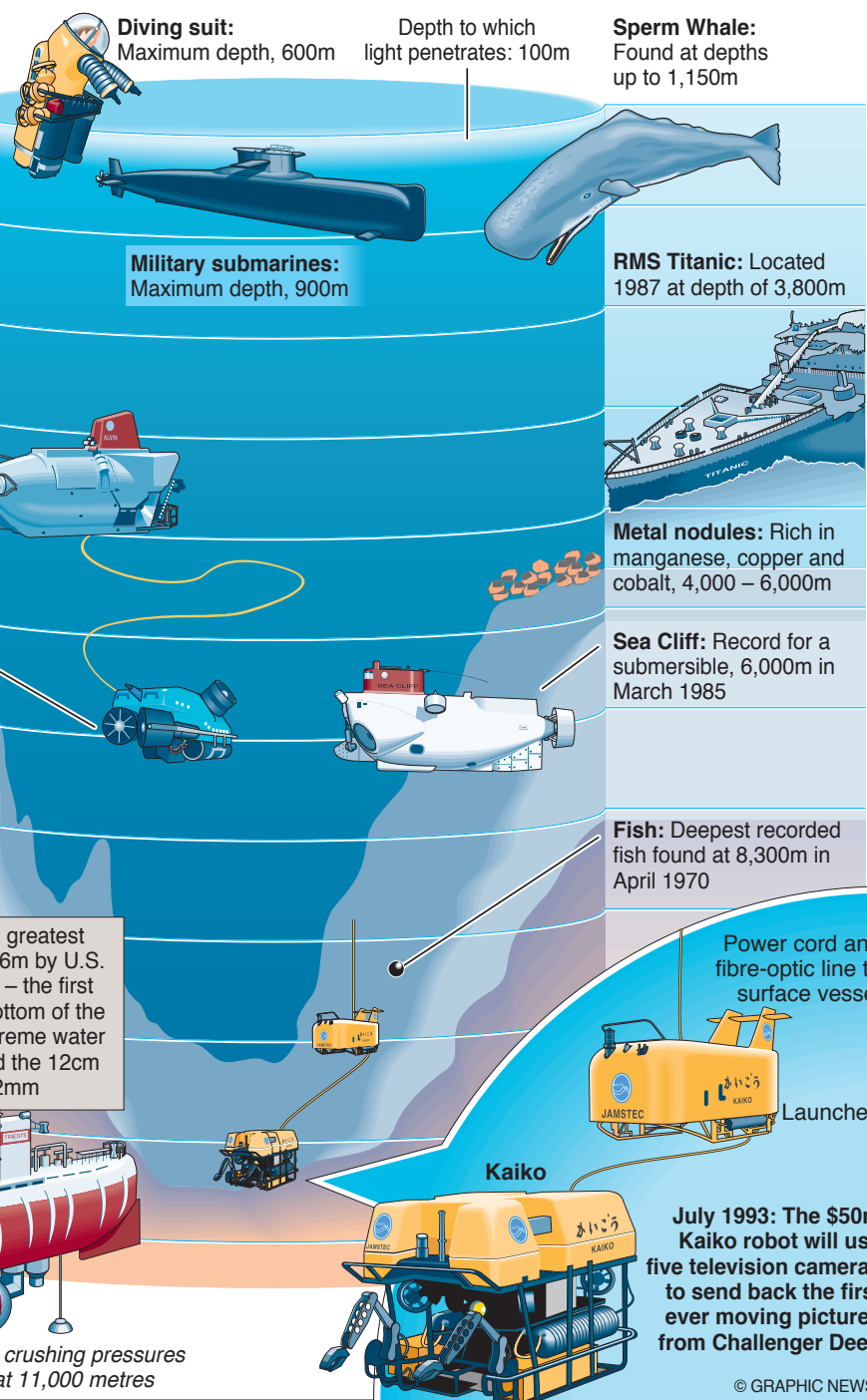
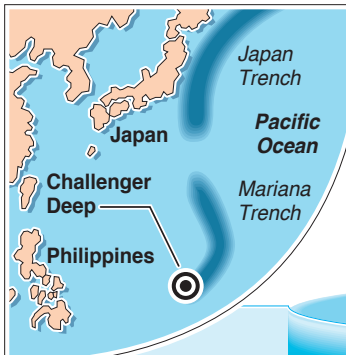


Voyage to the bottom of the sea

A Japanese expedition plans to lower a robot named Kaiko into the Challenger Deep, 11,000 metres down in the Mariana Trench – 2 kilometres deeper than Mount Everest is high. The successful use of robots at extreme depth will enable the collection of mineral-rich nodules from the Pacific Ocean floor, a source of metals many times greater than deposits found on land



Latest undersea craft use lightweight ceramics to withstand crushing pressures of 1,120kg per square cm found at 11,000 metres