



Coral Reef Ecosystem **Comprehension** Questions

1. Are corals living organisms?

Tick **one** box.

yes

no

2. Name **two** organisms that are found on coral reefs.

1. _____

2. _____

3. What gives the coral reef its bright colours?

4. Where are coral reefs normally found?

5. Why does the algae live in the coral tissues?

Tick **one** box.

The algae prefer warm, dark spaces.

The coral and algae rely on each other to survive.

The algae do not like to live on their own.

6. Name the process in which algae use energy from the sun to produce glucose.

7. What is ocean acidification?

Tick **one** box.

The process of oceans becoming solids.

The process of oceans becoming more alkaline.

The process of oceans becoming more acidic.

8. What is coral bleaching?

9. Describe **two** ways that humans can have a negative impact on coral reefs.

1. _____

2. _____

10. Describe the impact of crown-of-thorns starfish on coral reefs.

11. Describe **two** reasons why coral reefs are important.

1. _____

2. _____

12. Suggest how a school could help save the coral reefs.





Coral Reef Ecosystem **Comprehension**

Questions Answers

1. Are corals living organisms?

Tick **one** box.

yes

no

2. Name **two** organisms that are found on coral reefs.

Any two from:

- **algae**
- **corals**
- **fish**
- **sea sponges**
- **starfish**
- **crabs**

Allow any sensible suggestion.

3. What gives the coral reef its bright colours?

The algae that live inside the coral tissues give the coral reef its bright colours.

4. Where are coral reefs normally found?

tropical waters

5. Why does the algae live in the coral tissues?

Tick **one** box.

The algae prefer warm, dark spaces.

The coral and algae rely on each other to survive.

The algae do not like to live on their own.

6. Name the process in which algae use energy from the sun to produce glucose.

photosynthesis

7. What is ocean acidification?

Tick **one** box.

The process of oceans becoming solids.

The process of oceans becoming more alkaline.

The process of oceans becoming more acidic.

8. What is coral bleaching?

The corals expel the algae that live within them, causing them to lose their colour and turn white.

9. Describe **two** ways that humans can have a negative impact on coral reefs.

Any two from:

- **burning fossil fuels, causing an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration**
- **water pollution, e.g. from chemicals in sun cream**
- **increase of sediment in the runoff from surrounding areas**
- **divers touching the coral/taking souvenirs**

Allow any other sensible suggestion.

10. Describe the impact of crown-of-thorns starfish on coral reefs.

The starfish feed on corals at a faster rate than the corals can reproduce, causing damage to the coral reef.

11. Describe **two** reasons why coral reefs are important.

Any two from:

- **they are home to a quarter of all marine species/they have high biodiversity**
- **they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere/fix carbon**
- **they provide people with fish/seafood**
- **they protect shorelines from hurricanes/storms/waves**
- **they can be used for drugs to help treat disease**
- **they attract tourists**

Allow any other sensible suggestion.

12. Suggest how a school could help save the coral reefs.

- **recycle paper and plastics**
- **promote using coral reef friendly sun cream**
- **serve sustainably sourced fish and seafood**
- **teach the importance of not touching the coral reefs or taking souvenirs**

Allow any other sensible suggestion.

