

INTRODUCTION TO CORAL REEFS FOLLOW ALONG WORKSHEET

Complete this worksheet during the lesson.

1. Is coral a plant, rock, or animal? (Circle one).
2. Corals are invertebrates which mean they do not have what?
3. What animals are corals related to? Check all that apply.

☐ Sea Stars	☐ Marine worms	☐ Stingrays	☐ Jellyfish
☐ Sea anemones	☐ Fish	☐ Squids	☐ Sea cucumbers
4. Corals get 10%/90% (circle one) of their food from hunting with their stinging cells also called _____.
5. What 2 things do zooxanthellae give coral?
6. Do corals photosynthesize? Yes or no (Circle one).
7. Fill in the blanks with the word bank:

Word Bank: Gorgonian Limestone Chitin

Hard corals have skeletons made of _____ and soft corals have skeletons made of _____ or _____.
8. Give one example of a hard coral species and one example of a soft coral species:
9. Coral reefs cover _____% of the ocean floor but support _____% of all marine life.
10. What type of environment do corals typically live in?
11. List 3 reasons why coral reefs are important:

12. Name and describe 3 threats to coral reefs:

13. Is a bleached coral a dead coral? Yes or No (Circle one).

14. Name and describe 3 ways we can help protect coral reefs:

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Complete this worksheet during the lesson.

1. Is coral a plant, rock, or animal? (Circle one).

2. Corals are invertebrates which mean they do not have what?

A backbone

3. What animals are corals related to? Check all that apply.

☐

Sea Stars

☐

Marine worms

☐

Stingrays

☒

Jellyfish

☒

Sea anemones

☐

Fish

☐

Squids

☐

Sea cucumbers

4. Corals get 10%/90% (circle one) of their food from hunting with their stinging cells also called nematocysts.

5. What 2 things do zooxanthellae give coral?

- 90% of food
- Color

6. Do corals photosynthesize? Yes or no (Circle one).

*coral animals do not, the zooxanthellae that live inside of them do

7. Fill in the blanks with the word bank:

Word Bank: Gorgonian

Limestone

Chitin

Hard corals have skeletons made of limestone and soft corals have skeletons made of gorgonian or chitin.

8. Give one example of a hard coral species and one example of a soft coral species:

Hard corals: brain, star, elkhorn, staghorn

Soft corals: sea fan, sea whip, sea rod

9. Coral reefs cover 1% of the ocean floor but support 25% of all marine life.

10. What type of environment do corals typically live in?

Warm, clean, clear, shallow water

11. List 3 reasons why coral reefs are important:

- storm protection
- biodiversity/habitat
- tourism/jobs
- food source
- medicine

12. Name and describe 3 threats to coral reefs:

- Physical damage: anchors, touching coral, prop scars, harmful fishing practices, deforestation/development
- Overfishing
- Pollution: stormwater, nutrients/wastewater, sunscreen, runoff
- Marine debris: trash in the ocean, microplastics
- Climate change: warming causing bleaching, ocean acidification, increased storm frequency and intensity
- Coral disease

13. Is a bleached coral a dead coral? Yes or No (Circle one).

14. Name and describe 3 ways we can help protect coral reefs:

- Reduce physical damage, don't touch coral, mooring buoys
- Support sustainable fishing
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Clean up trash
- Improve water quality/reduce pollution: wear mineral sunscreen
- Reduce carbon footprint
- Coral rescue/restoration
- Educate others!