



Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions using details from the text.

Coral Bleaching: A Threat to Ocean Life



Coral reefs are often called the "rainforests of the sea" because they are bursting with life. These underwater cities are built by tiny animals called polyps, which have a special relationship with colorful algae living inside them. The algae provide food for the polyps through photosynthesis, and in return, the polyps offer the algae a safe home. This partnership is vital for the health and vibrant colors of the coral.

However, coral reefs around the world are facing a serious threat called coral bleaching. When ocean waters get too warm, even by a small amount, the corals become stressed. This stress causes the polyps to expel the algae living within their tissues. Without the algae, the coral loses its main food source and its beautiful color, turning stark white. This is why it's called "bleaching."

Bleached corals are not dead, but they are very vulnerable. They can recover if water temperatures drop and the algae return, but if the stress continues, the corals will eventually die. A major bleaching event in 2016-2017 affected 70% of the world's coral reefs, with some areas losing over half their coral cover. Scientists are concerned because these events are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change.



The loss of coral reefs has a devastating impact on the entire ocean ecosystem. Reefs provide homes and food for a quarter of all marine species, protect coastlines from storms, and support fishing industries. Protecting coral reefs means reducing carbon



emissions to slow ocean warming and supporting conservation efforts. Understanding coral bleaching is the first step in helping these incredible underwater worlds survive.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) What is the main idea of this passage?

- A Coral bleaching is a major environmental problem caused by rising ocean temperatures that threatens marine life.
- B Coral polyps have a special relationship with algae that gives them color.
- C The ocean is home to many different kinds of animals and plants.
- D Scientists are working hard to discover new species of coral.

(2) Which detail best supports the main idea about the impact of coral bleaching?

- A A major bleaching event in 2016-2017 affected 70% of the world's coral reefs.
- B Coral reefs are sometimes called "rainforests of the sea."
- C Coral polyps are tiny animals that build reefs.
- D Some coral reefs are thousands of years old.

(3) What would be the best title for this passage?

- A Coral Bleaching: A Crisis for Ocean Ecosystems
- B The Colors of Coral
- C Tiny Animals of the Sea
- D How Algae Help Corals

(4) Which sentence does NOT belong in this passage?

- A Coral reefs provide homes and food for many marine species.
- B Bleached corals can recover if water temperatures drop.



- C Some types of coral can glow in the dark.
- D Rising ocean temperatures cause corals to expel their algae.

(5) Write the main idea in TWO sentences. Include one supporting detail.

