Name: Date: Score: / 6

Coral Reefs: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Science · about 135 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

Coral Reefs

Coral reefs look like colorful underwater gardens, but coral is actually made of tiny animals called polyps. Each polyp is softer than your fingertip. Polyps build hard skeletons out of a material like limestone. Over hundreds of years, millions of these skeletons pile up to form a reef.

Coral reefs cover less than one percent of the ocean floor, but about one fourth of all ocean animals live on or near them. Fish, sea turtles, crabs, and octopuses find food and shelter in the reef's nooks.

Coral reefs need warm, clear, shallow water. When the ocean gets too warm, coral can turn white and may die. This is called coral bleaching. The largest coral reef system in the world is the Great Barrier Reef near Australia. In the United States, reefs grow near Florida and Hawaii.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. how to swim with fish B. the country of Australia C. gardens on land
   D. what coral reefs are and why they matter

2. **Detail:** What is coral made of?

   A. plants B. sand C. tiny animals called polyps D. rocks from volcanoes

3. **Detail:** How much of the ocean floor do coral reefs cover?

   A. half B. about one fourth C. less than one percent D. all of it

4. **Inference:** Why do so many animals live near coral reefs?

   A. People feed them. B. They find food and shelter there. C. The water is cold.
   D. There are no other animals.

5. **Vocabulary:** Coral bleaching is when...

   A. coral turns white because the water is too warm B. coral grows taller
   C. coral is cleaned D. fish eat coral

6. **Detail:** Name one place in the United States where coral reefs grow.

ANSWER KEY

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