

Coral Reefs - Cities Under the Sea

ESL Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com



Coral reefs are one of the most **beautiful** places in the ocean. They are full of **bright** colors like red, orange, yellow, and purple. Coral reefs look like underwater gardens, but they are actually made by tiny **animals** called coral polyps.

Coral polyps are very **small** creatures that live together in big groups. They **build** hard walls around their soft bodies using a special material. Over many years, these walls grow and **cover** large areas of the ocean floor. This is how a coral reef is made.

Many kinds of **fish** and sea animals call coral reefs their **home**. Clownfish, sea turtles, and sharks all live near reefs. The reef gives them **food** and a safe place to hide from danger. Without reefs, many animals would have nowhere to live.

Coral reefs **need** clean, warm water to stay **healthy**. The water cannot be too hot or too cold. Coral also needs sunlight because tiny **plant**-like things live inside the coral and help it grow.

Today, coral reefs are in trouble. Dirty water and **heat** from the sun can **hurt** coral and make it turn white. We must keep the ocean **clean** to protect these amazing underwater cities.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. beautiful _____ | a. a place where someone lives |
| 2. bright _____ | b. free from dirt or pollution |
| 3. animals _____ | c. to make or create something |
| 4. small _____ | d. in good condition, not sick |
| 5. build _____ | e. things we eat to live and grow |
| 6. cover _____ | f. having many strong colors |
| 7. home _____ | g. very pleasing to look at |
| 8. food _____ | h. living things that eat and move |
| 9. healthy _____ | i. little in size |
| 10. clean _____ | j. to spread over an area |

B. True or False

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Coral reefs are full of bright colors. _____ | 2. Coral polyps are very large animals. _____ | 3. Coral polyps build hard walls around their bodies. _____ |
| 4. Only fish live near coral reefs. _____ | 5. Coral reefs give animals food and safety. _____ | 6. Coral needs clean water to stay healthy. _____ |
| 7. Coral does not need sunlight. _____ | 8. Dirty water can hurt coral. _____ | 9. Coral turns white when it is in trouble. _____ |

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: beautiful, bright, small, build, home, healthy, clean

1. Coral reefs are one of the most _____ places in the ocean.
2. Coral polyps are very _____ creatures.
3. Coral polyps _____ hard walls around their bodies.
4. Many sea animals call coral reefs their _____.
5. We must keep the ocean _____ to protect coral reefs.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. What are coral reefs made by?
2. How do coral polyps build a reef?
3. What animals live near coral reefs?
4. What does coral need to stay healthy?
5. Why are coral reefs in trouble today?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Would you like to visit a coral reef? Why or why not?
2. Why are coral reefs important for ocean animals?
3. What can people do to help protect coral reefs?

Answer Key

A. Vocabulary: 1-f, 2-g, 3-c, 4-h, 5-i, 6-a, 7-j, 8-d, 9-e, 10-b

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-beautiful, 2-small, 3-build, 4-home, 5-clean

D. Comprehension: 1. Tiny animals called coral polyps; 2. They build hard walls around their soft bodies over many years; 3. Clownfish, sea turtles, and sharks; 4. Clean warm water and sunlight; 5. Dirty water and heat can hurt coral