Coral Reefs

Coral reefs are the rainforests of the ocean. Reefs are ecologically important ecosystems and have a high biodiversity that serves as a storage bank of rich genetic resources. They are a source of food and medicine, and they protect the coast from wave erosion. Corals are marine animals related to jellyfish and anemones. Both colonial and solitary corals catch plankton (microscopic plants and animals) and other suspended food particles with arm-like tentacles, which feed a centrally located mouth. Most hard corals also host symbiotic algae, a long-standing and successful partnership. These algae provide them with an additional food source through photosynthesis. Corals secrete hard calcareous exoskeletons, giving them structural rigidity. These colonial "hard corals" form elaborate finger-shaped, branching, or mound shaped structures and can create masses of limestone that stretch for tens or even hundreds of miles. Although corals have a wide distribution in the world's oceans, the varieties that form reefs are typically restricted to relatively shallow, warm tropical waters between latitudes 30 north and 30 south. Clean, clear water is essential to their health.

Once coral larvae have settled on a hard substrate and have become established, colonies can arise if conditions are suitable for growth. Today, richly diverse coral reefs are found in the tropics along coastlines, on the margins of volcanic islands, and as isolated coral islands. Coral reefs are found in about 100 countries. Coral Reefs are home to over 25 percent of all marine life and are among the world's most fragile and endangered ecosystems. In the last few decades over 35 million acres of Coral Reefs have been obliterated. Reefs of 93 countries have been damaged. When corals are stressed by high temperature, ultraviolet light or other environmental changes, they lose their symbiotic algal cells, and appear white. Depending on the intensity and duration of the stress, the corals may recover or die. If the present rate of destruction continues, 70% of the world's coral reefs will be destroyed within the next few decades.

Reading Test:

Fluency: ___/5 Pronunciation: ___/5 Understanding: ___/5 Meaning: ___/5

Comments: _____

Q. Write and learn the spellings of the underlined words in the text.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____ 8. _____

9. _____ 10. _____

11. _____ 12. _____

Q. Write the meanings of the following words in the spaces provided.

a. biodiversity _____

b. ecosystem _____

c. secrete _____

d. obliterate _____

e. colonial _____

Q. Write the synonyms of the following words.

a. elaborate _____ b. erosion _____

c. obliterate _____ d. isolated _____

e. resources _____ f. secrete _____

Q. Answer the following questions to the text 'Coral Reefs' in full sentences.

a. What are coral reefs?

b. What are the benefits of the existence of coral reefs?

c. How do corals feed themselves?

d. What is a coral's source of food?

e. What areas are corals likely to form in?

f. Where are rich coral reefs found?

g. What is the main concern regarding coral reefs?

h. Is it possible to prevent future damage?