



The Great Barrier Reef: A Natural Wonder

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions to demonstrate your understanding about the characteristics of the Great Barrier Reef and reef ecosystems.

1. The Great Barrier Reef is bigger than any other coral reef found throughout the world. True False

2. As well as coral reefs, the Great Barrier Reef contains many other habitat types. Name two other types of habitats you would find on the Great Barrier Reef.

3. The living features of an ecosystem are known as the _____ factors.

4. Corals are made up of colonies of plants called polyps. True False

5. What do hard corals create from calcium and carbonate that soft corals do not?

6. Corals are naturally bright in colour. True False

7. Which of the following best describes the relationship between corals and zooxanthellae?

- a) Zooxanthellae are a type of algae upon which the coral feeds
- b) Zooxanthellae are harmful to coral
- c) Zooxanthellae get energy from the coral they live amongst
- d) Zooxanthellae provide coral with the products of photosynthesis

8. The non-living features of an ecosystem are known as the factors.

9. Match the following terms to the descriptions below.

buoyancy density viscosity salinity

_____ : Increases with water salinity and depth, and decreases with temperature

_____ : The level of resistance to movement in water

_____ : The saltiness of water

_____ : Upward force exerted on objects in the water





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10. Crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks have a serious impact on coral reefs. Which of the following is considered to be a likely contributor to these outbreaks?
- a) increased absorption of carbon dioxide by the ocean
 - b) extreme weather events that damage the coral
 - c) warmer temperatures due to climate change
 - d) increased nutrient availability from coastal run-off
11. Seaweeds are an example of a _____, which make their own food through photosynthesis and are at the base of the food chain.
12. Next on the food chain are the primary and secondary consumers. Sharks are a specific type of consumer known as an _____.
13. The recyclers within the food chain are known as _____.
14. The nutrient and carbon cycles are distinct cycles, and do not interact with each other. True False
15. Increased levels of dissolved carbon dioxide in the oceans are causing a decrease in ocean _____.

