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Date _____

Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing is the restating of information in your own words. When you read science texts, you may encounter complex ideas and new vocabulary. To check your understanding, use paraphrasing to restate the language in the text.

Read the following science text and answer the questions.

Coral Reef Ecosystems

Coral reefs are among the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. Often called the "rainforests of the sea," coral reefs occupy less than 1% of the ocean floor but are home to more than 25% of marine species. These complex underwater structures are built by tiny animals called coral polyps, which secrete calcium carbonate to form protective skeletons.

Coral reefs provide essential habitat for thousands of species of fish, crustaceans, and other marine life. They also protect coastlines from storms and erosion, support fishing industries worth billions of dollars, and contain compounds used in medicine to treat cancer, arthritis, and other diseases.

Unfortunately, coral reefs are threatened by climate change, ocean acidification, pollution, and destructive fishing practices. When ocean temperatures rise, corals expel the colorful algae living inside them, causing coral

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bleaching. Without these algae, which provide corals with food through photosynthesis, the corals often die, threatening the entire reef ecosystem.

Scientists are working to protect these valuable ecosystems through conservation efforts, sustainable fishing practices, and research into coral resilience against rising ocean temperatures.

1. Paraphrase the first paragraph of the text in your own words.

2. Identify two benefits of coral reefs mentioned in the text and paraphrase them.

3. What is coral bleaching as described in the passage? Paraphrase this information.

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Paraphrasing - Answer Key

1. Paraphrase the first paragraph of the text in your own words.

Coral reefs are extremely biodiverse habitats. Though they cover only a small fraction of the ocean bottom, they support a quarter of all sea life. Small animals called coral polyps create these underwater structures by producing calcium carbonate shells for protection.

2. Identify two benefits of coral reefs mentioned in the text and paraphrase them.

Coral reefs help shield shorelines from storm damage and coastal erosion. They also contain substances that scientists use to develop medications for treating serious illnesses like cancer and arthritis.

3. What is coral bleaching as described in the passage? Paraphrase this information.

Coral bleaching happens when warmer ocean temperatures cause corals to push out the colorful algae that live inside them. Since these algae make food for corals through photosynthesis, corals often die without them, putting the entire reef system at risk.