

Name _____

Date _____

Documentary

A **documentary** is a nonfiction film that gives viewers information about important people, major events, significant discoveries, or historical places. Documentaries use features to help viewers understand the information.

Read the following documentary script excerpt and answer the questions.

Guardians of the Reef

[Narrator speaks over underwater footage of a coral reef teeming with colorful fish]

For centuries, coral reefs have been the rainforests of the ocean, home to nearly one-quarter of all marine species. These magnificent structures are built by tiny coral polyps, smaller than a grain of rice, yet together they create the largest living structures on Earth.

[Camera zooms in on coral bleaching]

Today, these underwater ecosystems face an unprecedented crisis. Rising ocean temperatures have triggered mass coral bleaching events. When water becomes too warm, corals expel the colorful algae living inside them. Without these algae, the coral turns white and is at high risk of dying.

[Interview with marine biologist Dr. Maya Chen]

Name _____

Date _____

Documentary

In the last five years alone, we've lost nearly 14% of the world's coral reefs. This isn't just about losing beautiful underwater landscapes—these reefs protect coastlines from storms and provide food and livelihoods for nearly 500 million people worldwide."

[Footage of conservation efforts, showing divers carefully replanting coral fragments]

But there is hope. Around the globe, dedicated scientists and local communities are working to save these precious ecosystems. In coral nurseries, researchers grow resilient coral species that can better withstand changing conditions. These coral fragments will eventually be transplanted back onto damaged reefs, breathing new life into these vital habitats.

1. What is the main purpose of this documentary?

2. What evidence does the documentary present about the current state of coral reefs?

3. How does this documentary differ from fictional storytelling?

Name _____

Date _____

Documentary-Answer Key

1. What is the main purpose of this documentary?

To inform viewers about threats facing coral reefs and show conservation efforts to protect them.

2. What evidence does the documentary present about the current state of coral reefs?

Dr. Chen states that 14% of world's coral reefs have been lost in five years, and footage shows coral bleaching.

3. How does this documentary differ from fictional storytelling?

It presents factual information with expert interviews and real footage rather than invented characters and plots. Its purpose is to inform rather than entertain through fiction.