

Name _____

Date _____

Make an Objective Summary

When you summarize a text, you give a brief, objective account of the central idea the author presents in the work. The central idea is the main point that the author wants you to understand. To keep your summary objective, include only the author's ideas; do not include your responses or ideas about the text.

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

The Decline of Coral Reefs

Coral reefs, often called the rainforests of the sea, are among the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. These underwater structures are built by tiny colonial organisms known as coral polyps, which secrete calcium carbonate to form a hard skeleton. Over time, these skeletons build up to create the complex structures we recognize as coral reefs. Despite covering less than 1% of the ocean floor, coral reefs support approximately 25% of all marine species. They provide habitat, spawning grounds, and nursery areas for fish that eventually populate the open ocean. Additionally, reefs protect coastlines from storms and erosion, support fishing industries, and attract tourism that benefits local economies.

However, coral reefs are facing unprecedented threats. Rising ocean temperatures, caused primarily by climate

Name _____

Date _____

Make an Objective Summary

change, lead to coral bleaching—a process where corals expel the colorful algae living in their tissues, leaving them white and vulnerable to disease. Ocean acidification, another consequence of increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, makes it harder for corals to build their calcium carbonate skeletons.

Human activities directly harm reefs too. Overfishing disrupts the delicate balance of reef ecosystems. Pollution from agricultural runoff and coastal development introduces harmful nutrients and sediments. Destructive fishing practices, like using dynamite or cyanide, physically damage reef structures.

Scientists warn that without significant action, we could lose up to 90% of the world's coral reefs within the next few decades. Conservation efforts include establishing marine protected areas, promoting sustainable fishing practices, reducing carbon emissions, and developing coral restoration technologies. While the situation is dire, there is still hope if global action is taken immediately.

1. Write a summary of this passage in 3-4 sentences.

Name _____

Date _____

Make an Objective Summary

2. What are the most important details to include in a summary of this passage?

3. What information from the passage could be excluded from a summary without losing the main ideas?

Name _____

Date _____

Make a Objective Summary-Answer Key

1. Write a summary of this passage in 3-4 sentences.

Coral reefs support marine life while providing coastal protection and economic benefits. Climate change and human activities threaten their survival. Without action, 90% could disappear within decades.

2. What are the most important details to include in a summary of this passage?

What reefs are, their importance, threats they face, and the urgency of conservation.

3. What information from the passage could be excluded from a summary without losing the main ideas?

Specific percentages, formation details, examples of harmful practices, and particular conservation methods.