SDG 14 – Life Below Water (Grades 8–9)

Interactive worksheet for Liveworksheets (same ideas & target vocabulary; new wording)

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Target vocabulary:

habitat, biodiversity, plankton, coral reef, mangrove, microplastics, overfishing, bycatch, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, algae bloom, dead zone

Task 1. Vocabulary match.

Write the letter of the correct meaning next to each word.

Words	Meanings (A–L)
1. habitat — ____	K. fast growth of algae, often from pollution
2. biodiversity — ____	L. an ocean area with very little oxygen
3. plankton — ____	H. sea animals caught accidentally while fishing
4. coral reef — ____	A. the natural home of a plant or animal
5. mangrove — ____	G. catching fish faster than they can reproduce
6. microplastics — ____	C. tiny organisms drifting in water
7. overfishing — ____	F. very small pieces of plastic in the sea
8. bycatch — ____	E. coastal trees that protect shores and shelter young fish
9. ocean acidification — ____	D. a rich underwater habitat built by corals
10. coral bleaching — ____	I. ocean becoming more acidic because it absorbs CO_2
11. algae bloom — ____	J. coral turning white and becoming weak
12. dead zone — ____	B. the variety of living things in an area

Task 2. Sort the words into the correct group.

Write each word under the right heading.

Words to sort: marine protected areas, coral reef, dead zone, algae bloom, bycatch, open ocean, choose sustainable seafood, microplastics, clean-up events, mangrove forest, recycle correctly, coral bleaching, reduce single-use plastic, ocean acidification, overfishing

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Habitats	Threats	Solutions

Task 3. Complete the paragraph using the word bank.

Word bank: plankton, biodiversity, microplastics, overfishing, bycatch, ocean acidification, algae bloom, dead zone

Oceans support huge _____ and help life on Earth. Tiny _____ float in the water and are a key part of many food chains. When plastic breaks down, it can form _____ that sea animals may swallow. Another threat is _____, which can empty the sea of fish. Fishing nets may also cause _____, catching turtles or dolphins accidentally. Extra CO_2 can lead to _____, which harms corals. Pollution can trigger an _____; later the water may lose oxygen and become a _____.

Task 4. Read the text and answer the questions.

Life below water matters to everyone. The ocean covers roughly 71% of the Earth and is home to countless species. Tiny plankton and sea plants produce a large share of the oxygen we breathe. Oceans also act like a giant buffer: they absorb heat and take in carbon dioxide, helping to slow down climate change. Different habitats play different roles. Coral reefs support an amazing variety of life, while mangrove forests protect coastlines and offer safe shelter for young fish. In the open ocean, food chains link small organisms to bigger fish and top predators.

Today, many marine ecosystems are under pressure. Plastic waste can break into microplastics that animals confuse with food. Overfishing reduces fish populations, and bycatch harms animals that were never meant to be caught. Warmer water and ocean acidification can weaken coral reefs and cause coral bleaching. In some places, pollution adds too many nutrients to the sea, causing algae blooms. When algae die and decompose, oxygen drops and dead zones can form.

There are clear solutions. Using reusable items, sorting waste, and cutting single-use plastics reduce pollution. Choosing sustainable seafood supports responsible fishing. Marine protected areas can give nature time to recover, and clean-up events help remove litter before it reaches the sea.

Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

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1) Why are oceans important for people?

A. They only provide salt.

B. They help produce oxygen and regulate climate.

C. They stop all storms.

D. They make cities bigger.

2) Which statement best describes plankton?

A. Large sea mammals.

B. Tiny drifting organisms.

C. Plastic waste.

D. A type of fishing boat.

3) Mangrove forests are useful because they...

A. create dead zones.

B. protect coasts and shelter young fish.

C. cause coral bleaching.

D. turn oceans acidic.

4) What is a common problem with plastic in the ocean?

A. It becomes microplastics that animals may eat.

B. It turns into coral reefs.

C. It increases oxygen levels.

D. It disappears quickly.

5) Overfishing means...

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A. catching fish faster than they can reproduce.

B. catching only one species.

C. fishing only at night.

D. protecting fish completely.

6) Bycatch is...

A. fish farming on land.

B. animals caught by accident while fishing.

C. a clean-up event.

D. a protected area rule.

7) What can cause coral bleaching?

A. Warmer water and stress on reefs.

B. More green spaces in cities.

C. Recycling correctly.

D. Using reusable bottles.

8) Which action is a solution mentioned in the text?

A. Throw litter into rivers.

B. Ignore fishing rules.

C. Use reusable items and sort waste.

D. Buy more single-use plastic.

Task 5. Put the food chain in the correct order.

Write numbers 1–4 next to the words.

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____ shark

____ bigger fish

____ small fish

____ plankton

Task 6. Mini reflection (2–3 sentences).

Write one problem for life below water and one solution you (or your school) can do this month.

_____

_____

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