



EXERCISE 3G: More Practice Identifying the Topic and Main Ideas

Read the passage and answer the questions. Circle the correct answer to each question.

Coral reefs are to the seas what rain forests are to the land. Teeming with life, these ecosystems depend upon sunlight and an intricate relationship between plant and animal to survive.

Line 5 The brilliant blue of the Red Sea is an unexpected sight within the dry (5) expanse of the Middle Eastern desert. Even more unexpected, however, is the myriad of colorful marine creatures which thrive in its shallow reefs and deep slopes. Half a world away in Australia's Coral Sea, a pair of clownfish will find protection in the reef as they patiently guard their eggs until they hatch. Strangely enough, these fish are actually poor swimmers (10) and seldom stray far from the protective cover provided by the sea anemones which dwell in their coral reef homes.

Another colorful addition to coral reefs appears as a rose-like creation. It is actually a ribbon of thousands of tiny nudibranch eggs. Nudibranches are a variety of very colorful, strangely shaped gastropods which can be (15) found in the world's warm seas and which feed on sponges, hydroid polyps, sea anemones, moss animals, or sea squirts.

1. What is the topic of this passage?
(A) Colorful fish
(B) Rain forests
(C) Coral reefs
(D) Ecosystems of the world
2. According to the passage, all of the following statements about coral reefs are true EXCEPT
(A) Coral reefs provide an ecosystem to support fish and plant life.
(B) Coral reefs are found in warm waters of the world.
(C) Coral reefs are colorful.
(D) Coral reefs develop in the deepest parts of the ocean.
3. The word "stray" in line 10 is closest in meaning to
(A) reproduce
(B) live
(C) wander
(D) eat

