Name: _____ Date: _____

Threats to Coral Reefs

Choose the correct answer to the question: What is this?

1. The world's coral (_____) reefs are increasingly being threatened, mostly because of human (_____) activities.
2. A group of environmental (_____) organizations released a report on the issue in February. The "Reefs at Risk Revisited" report used new (_____) information and improved satellite mapping systems to study the world's coral reefs. For the first (_____) time, it also considered the effect of climate change on these threatened sea organisms.
3. Jane Lubchenco is administrator (_____) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (_____), or NOAA. She says the problem (_____) is serious.
4. JANE LUBCHENCO: "Approximately (_____) 75 percent of the world's coral reefs are currently (_____) threatened by a combination of local and global pressures."
5. Lubchenco says the threat (_____) to coral reefs (_____) will continue to increase unless something is done to save them.

liveworksheets.com

6. JANE LUBCHENCO: “If the current trend persists (_____), the projections in this report tell (_____) us that 20 years from now, roughly half the reefs globally will experience (_____) thermal stress sufficient to induce severe bleaching in most years. Within the next 50 years this percentage is expected to grow more than 95 percent.”

7. Nancy Knowlton is with (_____) the Smithsonian Institution. She says the threat to coral reefs could have a major effect on (_____) sea life.

8. NANCY KNOWLTON: “It’s been estimated (_____) that about one -- at least one quarter, maybe as much as one third, of all species that live in the ocean live associated (_____) with coral reefs. So perhaps it is not too surprising that even more recently an analysis was done (_____) that suggests that one third of all coral species are actually at risk of extinction. This makes corals the most endangered (_____) animal on the planet, even more endangered (_____) than frogs.”

9. Millions of species (_____) of sea life (_____) depend on coral reefs for their survival (_____). This makes them an important source (_____) of food for millions of people around the world (_____).

10. Coral reefs also protect (_____) coastlines from storms and flooding. And, they provide (_____) economic security for many countries.

11. LAURETTA BURKE: “Tourism (_____) is an important economic contributor (_____) in over 95 countries (_____) and territories (_____) around the world. It contributes over 20 percent of GDP in over 20 countries.”

12. Lauretta Burke is with the World (_____) Resources Institute. She was one of the lead writers of the report. She says more than 275-million people are dependent on the resources

liveworksheets.com

from coral reefs, mostly (_____) in Southeast Asia and the Indian (_____) Ocean.

13. The report noted (_____) overfishing and climate change as two of the most serious threats to the world's oceans. It said (_____) higher acidity levels caused by carbon dioxide emissions are also a problem. Other threats include (_____) the use of explosives for fishing, as well as the run-off of toxic materials and other pollution.

14. LAURETTA BURKE: "Overfishing is the most widespread threat affecting about (_____) 55 percent of (_____) the world's reefs. The threat is particularly high in (_____) Southeast Asia. Watershed based pollution and (_____) coastal development affect roughly a quarter of the world's reefs."

15. Burke says while the reefs around Australia (_____) are the best preserved, those in Southeast Asia (_____) are the most threatened. Ninety percent of them are at risk, largely because of overfishing.

16. The (_____) report says coral reefs are critically important. It (_____) says better management practices (_____) and policies (_____) must be established to reduce the threats to these valuable ecosystems. I'm Christopher Cruise.

liveworksheets.com