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Aii Language Center

A Mengly J. Quach Education School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Quiz

Point: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT 6**

**VOCABULARY**

**Match the words with correct definitions.**

1. brilliant	(adjective)	a. to build something
2. chemical	(noun)	b. special and amazing
3. conservation	(noun)	c. to let a substance flow out
4. construct	(verb)	d. very bright
5. negative	(adjective)	e. the process of making the environment dirty
6. occupy	(verb)	f. not deep
7. pollution	(noun)	g. harmful or bad
8. release	(verb)	h. the protection of the environment
9. remarkable	(adjective)	i. a substance produced by a chemical process
10. shallow	(adjective)	j. to stay somewhere

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

## Reading Comprehension

### Can the World's Coral Reefs Be Saved?

Coral reefs are the largest structures built by any living thing, including humans. As they lie under the surface of the water, most people do not realize that they are actually like huge mountains rising from the ocean floor. Recently, many coral reefs have begun to suffer serious damage, and some can no longer support the wide variety of plants and other life forms they did in the past. The damage seems to come from three basic sources: direct physical destruction of the coral reefs themselves, pollution produced by humans, and the warming of ocean waters caused by climate change.

#### Direct Destruction

For centuries, limestone—one of the main elements found in coral reefs—was used in the construction of houses and other types of buildings. Although it was available from other sources, limestone from coral reefs was the usual choice in areas near an ocean. Coral reefs are also used in jewelry making and to decorate fish tanks. Finally, some methods of fishing use explosions to break coral reefs apart. Although these practices are changing, much damage has already been done.

#### Human Pollution

For years, industrial pollution has had a negative effect on the world's coral reefs. Recently, however, scientists have hypothesized that another category of pollution is also threatening coral reefs' survival. It appears the sunscreen that millions of swimmers use to protect their skin from the sun causes coral reefs to die. The chemicals in sunscreen do not kill the creatures themselves. Instead, the chemicals cause coral reefs to push out the tiny brilliantly colored plants called algae that live inside their bodies. When this happens, the whole coral reef begins to die.

#### Climate Change

Officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have gathered information showing that climate change may be the biggest threat to conserving coral reefs worldwide. When the water gets too warm, the coral reef responds as if pollution is present—it forces the algae out. With the algae gone, the coral reef turns white, or "bleaches." This is a sure sign that the coral reef is no longer a living thing.

**Read the passage and choose the correct answer for each question.**

1. What is the passage mainly about?
  - a. the effects of pollution on coral reefs
  - b. how coral reefs can be saved
  - c. how climate change affects coral reefs
  - d. a variety of threats to coral reefs

2. In the second sentence of the first paragraph, what does the word *they* refer to?
  - a. coral reefs
  - b. humans
  - c. people
  - d. mountains
3. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
  - a. Industrial pollution damages coral reefs.
  - b. Scientists are studying coral reefs.
  - c. Sunscreen appears to damage coral reefs.
  - d. Coral reefs need algae to survive.
4. Where do coral reefs get their bright colors from?
  - a. the sun
  - b. algae
  - c. warm water
  - d. pollution
5. According to the passage, what probably happens when a coral reef dies?
  - a. It still looks the same.
  - b. It creates a lot of pollution.
  - c. Other related life forms disappear.
  - d. It causes the surrounding waters to get warmer.

1	2	3	4	5