

## Marine life

Marine life refers to the vast array of living organisms that inhabit the world's oceans, seas, and coastal areas. It includes everything from microscopic plankton to the largest mammals on Earth, such as whales. Marine ecosystems are incredibly diverse, hosting species like fish, crustaceans, mollusks, corals, and marine plants like algae and seaweed.

These ecosystems play a crucial role in maintaining the health of the planet. Oceans regulate the Earth's climate by absorbing carbon dioxide and generating oxygen through photosynthesis, largely thanks to marine plants and plankton. Coral reefs, often called the "rainforests of the sea," provide habitats for countless species and help protect coastlines from erosion and storm damage.

Marine life faces numerous threats, including overfishing, pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change. Rising ocean temperatures and acidification are particularly harmful, as they damage coral reefs and disrupt food chains. Conservation efforts, such as marine protected areas and sustainable fishing practices, are vital to preserving the rich biodiversity of marine ecosystems.

In summary, marine life is a key component of Earth's ecological balance, offering invaluable resources and services to humans and the environment alike. Protecting these ecosystems is essential for the well-being of the planet and future generations.

1. What is the primary role of oceans in regulating the Earth's climate?

- a) Generating carbon dioxide
- b) Absorbing oxygen from the atmosphere
- c) Absorbing carbon dioxide and generating oxygen
- d) Blocking sunlight from reaching the Earth

2. Which of the following is considered a threat to marine life?

- a) Sustainable fishing practices
- b) Overfishing
- c) Coral reef conservation
- d) Coastal protection programs

3. What are coral reefs often called due to their biodiversity?

- a) The deserts of the sea
- b) The rainforests of the sea
- c) The mountains of the sea
- d) The lakes of the sea

4. What kind of organisms are responsible for photosynthesis in marine ecosystems?

- a) Sharks and dolphins
- b) Coral reefs and fish
- c) Marine plants and plankton
- d) Sea turtles and whales

5. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a threat to marine ecosystems?

- a) Climate change
- b) Habitat destruction
- c) Plastic pollution
- d) Coastal tourism