

READING PASSAGE ON MARINE LIFE

(taken from Kids National Geographic: Ocean Habitat, written by Avery Hurt)

WATERY HABITATS

Temperature, ocean depth, and distance from the shore determine the types of plants and animals living in an area of the ocean. These regions are called habitats.

Coral reefs are one type of habitat. When tiny animals called polyps die, their skeletons harden so other polyps can live on top of them. Then those polyps die, and more move in. After thousands of years, this becomes a complex structure called a coral reef that provides food and shelter for many kinds of ocean animals. In fact, corals reefs have been called the rainforests of the sea because of the wide variety of animals found there. Animals such as seahorses, clownfish, and sea turtles all live on coral reefs. And corals themselves are animals! They grab food from the water using tiny tentacle-like arms.

Kelp forests found along the coastlines of the Pacific and Antarctic Oceans also provide food and shelter for marine life. These large, brown, rubbery plants have hollow, globe-shaped growths on the leaves called pneumatocysts that help the plants rise to the surface. Sea lions, whales, shore birds, and other ocean animals make meals of the smaller critters that hide in the leaves.

Other ocean habitats aren't actually in the ocean, such as estuaries. Estuaries are areas where rivers and oceans meet and have a mix of saltwater and freshwater. Oysters, crabs, and many birds like great herons and egrets live in estuaries.

Scientists estimate that we've only explored 5 percent of the ocean. Maybe you'll be the next person to discover a new species of fish or a deeper underwater trench!

ACTIVITY 1

List 5 new words that you learnt from reading the passage and their meaning.

NEW WORD	MEANING

ACTIVITY 2

READING COMPREHENSION: Answer the questions below based on the text.

1. What are the three factors that determine the types of plants and animals living in an area of the ocean?
2. According to the passage, what is a habitat?
3. Why are coral reefs referred to as the 'rainforests of the sea'?
4. Name three (3) animals mentioned in the text that live on coral reefs.
5. Where are kelp forests commonly found?

6. What type of water is found in estuaries?

7. List three (3) animals mentioned in the passage that live in

8. According to scientists, how much of the ocean has been explored?

ACTIVITY 3:

Write 3 short sentences using the new vocabulary that you learnt today.

Word:

Sentence:

Word:

Sentence:

Word:

Sentence: