



### Colorful Corals

Corals look like a colorful garden under the water. But corals are not plants! They're animals.

**What's for dinner?** Each coral is made up of small animals called polyps. Polyps have a mouth, stomach, and tentacles to catch food. Many polyps live in the sunlit zone, where they eat small plants called algae.

**What's a coral reef?** Most corals live together. As old corals die, new polyps grow on top. That's how you get a coral reef. Some coral reefs are millions of years old, and they're home to more than 4,000 kinds of fish!

**Save the reefs!** Coral reefs are amazing recourses. They're important for tourism and jobs. Scientists use reef animals to make new medicines and other products. Coral reefs are a source of food, too. But coral reefs are in danger. Because of pollution, many coral reefs are disappearing. Some people say that only 30 percent of the world's corals will exist in the year 2050. We must protect our corals now.

#### I. Read. Choose the correct answer A, B or C.

1. What is the text about?
  - A. fish
  - B. plants
  - C. corals
  - D. sharks
2. What do corals look like?
  - A. a colorful garden
  - B. an underwater world
  - C. underwater animals
  - D. green plants
3. What is "a polyp"?
  - A. corals' food
  - B. a plant
  - C. an animal
  - D. a bacteria
4. How can a polyp get food? – It uses...
  - A. its stomach
  - B. its mouth
  - C. its arms
  - D. its tentacles
5. What happens as old corals die?
  - A. New polyps grow.
  - B. Big plants grow on them.
  - C. Dolphins eat them.
  - D. They become algae.
6. Why do many coral reefs disappear?
  - A. Because big fish eat them.
  - B. Because people get them for food.
  - C. Because their food is disappearing.
  - D. Because their living place is polluted.

#### II. Read. Check True and False.

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1. Corals are plants that live in the ocean.
2. All polyps live in the sunlit zone.
3. Most corals live by themselves and separate from others.
4. About 4,000 kinds of fish live in some coral reefs.
5. Coral reefs can help scientists create new medicines.

#### III. Answer the questions.

1. What must we do to protect coral reefs?

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2. What will happen if coral reefs disappear?

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