Kingdoms

The number of living things in the world is enormous. In order to study and talk about living things, they must be organized. They are usually organized according to similar characteristics. The system of organization used today was developed by a Swedish scientist in the eighteenth century.

The largest divisions in the modern system are the kingdoms. There are five kingdoms. Each kingdom contains many living beings, which share similar characteristics. For example, one of the five is called Kingdom Plantae, or the Plant Kingdom. All members of this kingdom make their own food and do not move around. A living thing that does not share these characteristics would be placed in a different kingdom.

1. **Directions**: *An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.*

   First sentence: **Plants and animals are organized in a system in order to study them.**

   a. A Swedish scientist organized the first set of kingdoms
   b. Anything that makes its own food and does not move is in the plant kingdom
   c. Kingdom Plantae means the same as the Plant Kingdom
   d. Kingdoms make up the largest groupings of plants and animals
   e. Living things are grouped by similar characteristics
   f. Something that can move is considered to be living

2. Based on the information in paragraph 2, what can be inferred about humans?
   a. They belong to the Kingdom Plantae.
   b. They move around
   c. They make their own food
   d. They do not belong to the Kingdom Plantae

3. As used in this passage, "**enormous**" means
   a. very small
   b. infinite
   c. very large
   d. increasing

4. Which sentences in the passage contain the main ideas listed in the summary?

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The Great Barrier Reef

A reef is a chain of rocks or coral that is near the surface of the ocean. Coral is a rock - like substance that is produced by sea animals. It often has bright colors which make it very beautiful. Reefs are a vital part of the ocean ecosystem. The largest such reef is just off the north eastern coast of Australia. This area is called "The Great Barrier Reef."

Approximately 900 islands and more than 3,000 smaller reefs make up The Great Barrier Reef system. It acts as a home for many different kinds of marine life, from tiny plants and fish to large sharks. The hard edges of the reef protect the marine life within from the strong waves of the ocean. Some notable species that depend on the reef include green sea turtles and the humpback whale, which travel from the Antarctic to give birth to their calves in the warm reef waters. Because of its importance as a diverse marine ecosystem, the Great Barrier Reef has been included on the list of World Heritage Areas. The coral in the reef is also important for maintaining the proper pH level in the water. The pH is a measure of the chemical balance of the water. With an incorrect pH level, plants and fish cannot survive . Thus, the coral not only protects the marine life from strong waves, but it also makes the water suitable for the animal life inhabiting it.

Recently, The Great Barrier Reef has been suffering damage. Global warming has been increasing ocean water temperatures past the level conducive to coral life. In addition, runoff from local farmland has been polluting the ocean water around the reef, and, by extension, the marine life within it. To compound this problem, this tarnished water is believed to be beneficial to the Crown - of - Thorns starfish, a species that actually preys upon coral. As more and more of these starfish are able to reproduce , more and more of The Great Barrier Reef will be destroyed .

1. According to the passage, where are reefs usually located?
    a. Deep underwater
    b. In lakes and rivers
    c. In the middle of the ocean
    d. Near the surface of the ocean

2. According to paragraph 2, how does the Barrier Reef protect marine life?
    a. The fish generally do not eat the plants in the reef
    b. It tarnishes runoff
    c. The reef is hard and protects the plants and fish from large waves
    d. It protects marine life from the Crown - of - Thorns starfish

3. Which of the following is closest in meaning to "**area**" in paragraph 1 ?
    a. Land beside the sea
    b. Location
    c. City
    d. Ocean

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4. As used in paragraph 2, what is the meaning of the word "**maintain**"?
    a. Keeping
    b. Exercising
    c. Getting rid of
    d. Multiplying

5. **Directions**: Complete the table by matching the phrases below. Select the appropriate phrases from the answer choices and match them to the aspect of reefs to which they relate. TWO of the answer choices will NOT be used.

Benefit	**Problem**
_____	_____
_____	_____
	_____

    a. Warmer temperature of water
    b. Pollution from farmlands
    c. Protection for marine life from strong waves
    d. Keeps pH levels in the water
    e. Location is off the northeastern coast
    f. Many sharks in area
    g. Good environment for a type of starfish

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