

A PRECIOUS RESOURCE

1. Read and listen to the sentences with words from the class discussion. Guess the meaning of each bold word, then write each word next to its definition.

- a. There was a **massive** oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. It was one of the largest environmental disasters in history.
- b. Some kinds of shellfish are able to **cement** themselves to hard objects, such as rocks and the bottoms of boats. It's very difficult to remove them.
- c. That movie was **instrumental** in getting the public to pay attention to the issue of global warming. Before then, nobody seemed to know or care about the issue.
- d. Some animals can survive in a variety of **habitats**, but others can live in only one very specific kind of place.
- e. There are many different **species** of fish, of all different colors, shapes, and sizes.
- f. Coral can survive a certain amount of pollution, but they won't **thrive**. They will be unhealthy and will eventually start to die.
- g. The **preservation** of our planet is everyone's responsibility. If we do not work together, we will destroy the environment and our children's future.
- h. I believe that life is **precious**. That is why I teach my children to respect all living things.
- i. The coral is extremely **fragile**. When you are swimming, be careful not to touch it with your hands or feet. Just a slight touch can damage or even kill it.
- j. Before they put up the **barrier**, the river used to flood the road every time it rained. Now it only floods when it rains unusually hard for several days.

1. _____ (v) attach firmly
2. _____ (n) something that blocks the way
3. _____ (n) the areas in which animals and plants normally live
4. _____ (adj) helpful; causing something to happen
5. _____ (n) groupings of living things
6. _____ (adj) easily broken or harmed
7. _____ (v) grow strong and healthy
8. _____ (adj) extremely valuable and well loved
9. _____ (adj) huge; great in number or size
10. _____ (n) protection from harm or change