Reef Connections

Track how an author connects facts and ideas.

ELA.5.R.2 "Reading Informational Text"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle transition words or phrases that show how ideas connect. In the margin, number three details that help you follow the author's organization.

When Reefs Turn White

1 Coral reefs are often called the rain forests of the sea because many fish and other animals live among their branches. Yet corals are animals, not plants. Tiny algae live inside many corals and use sunlight to make food. The algae share that food with the coral, while the coral gives the algae a safe place to live.

2 When ocean water stays unusually warm, the algae may leave the coral. Without enough algae, the coral loses some of its food and its bright color. This change is called bleaching. Bleached coral is not always dead, but it is weaker. If warm water continues, the coral can starve or become sick, and animals that depend on the reef may lose shelter and food.

3 Scientists and local communities can reduce some stress on reefs. For example, keeping dirty water and trash out of the ocean helps corals stay healthier. People can also protect reef areas from harmful fishing practices. These actions cannot quickly cool the whole ocean, but they give corals a better chance to recover after warm water returns to normal.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which text structure does the author use most often in this passage?

2. How does paragraph 2 use the passage's text structure? Use two details from the paragraph.

3. How does paragraph 1 help you understand why bleaching harms coral?

4. How does the organization of paragraph 3 add to the overall meaning of the passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different environmental change, such as a drought or litter in a park. Write three sentences that clearly show how one event leads to results. Use at least two connecting words or phrases.

ANSWER KEY

Reef Connections

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle transition words or phrases that show how ideas connect. In the margin, number three details that help you follow the author's organization. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which text structure does the author use most often in this passage?	**Cause and effect.**
2	How does paragraph 2 use the passage's text structure? Use two details from the paragraph.	**It shows that warm water can cause algae to leave, which causes coral to lose food and color. Continued warm water can then cause the coral to starve or become sick.**
3	How does paragraph 1 help you understand why bleaching harms coral?	**It explains that algae give coral food, so the reader understands why coral loses food when the algae leave.**
4	How does the organization of paragraph 3 add to the overall meaning of the passage?	**It shows that protecting reefs from pollution and harmful fishing can help corals stay healthier and recover.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When a drought lasts for months, a pond can shrink. As its water level falls, fish have less space and may have less oxygen. Therefore, some fish die or move to deeper water.

Accept answers that identify cause and effect and explain how connected details build the meaning of the passage. For the open task, accept three accurate sentences with a clear event, results, and at least two connecting words or phrases.