Reef Word Dive

Trace vocabulary in a coral restoration report.

8.L.V.1.a "Acquire a range of general, academic, and disciplinary vocabulary through grade-level print, digital, and/or multimodal texts or content. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle three words or phrases that name coral-science ideas. Box two words that could be useful in many school subjects, then underline nearby words that help explain each circled term.

Restoring a Coral Reef

1. Along Florida's coast, scientists are rebuilding damaged coral reefs with small fragments of living coral. A reef is not a single rock. It is a community of tiny animals called polyps, which build hard skeletons of calcium carbonate. When storms, disease, or warm water harm a reef, researchers collect healthy fragments and attach them to underwater frames. In a coral nursery, the fragments grow before divers transplant them to a damaged site. This process can increase the reef's chance of recovery.

2. Before restoration begins, teams survey the site and record evidence about its condition. They measure water temperature, note the kinds of fish present, and estimate how much live coral covers the seafloor. These observations create a baseline, or starting set of data, for later comparison. After transplantation, teams monitor the new colonies for survival and growth. If a colony bleaches, it loses the algae that provide much of its food and color. Monitoring helps researchers evaluate whether their method is effective.

3. Coral restoration is one strategy, not a complete solution. Reefs also need cleaner water and lower ocean temperatures to remain resilient when conditions change. After a heat wave, a reef that keeps growing can provide shelter and food for fish. Local communities can reduce pollution by improving wastewater systems and limiting fertilizer runoff. Governments can establish protected areas, where rules restrict activities that damage coral. Scientists share findings with planners, who use evidence to decide which actions deserve support. Lasting results require fieldwork and decisions beyond the reef.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does transplant mean as it is used for coral fragments?

2. What is a baseline, and how do restoration teams use it?

3. What does resilient most nearly mean in paragraph 3? Use the heat-wave detail to explain your answer.

4. The word evidence appears in paragraphs 2 and 3. What does it mean in this report?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-explanation about a topic you know or are studying. Use one academic word and two disciplinary terms, and include context clues that show what each disciplinary term means.

ANSWER KEY

Reef Word Dive

GRADE 8 · 8.L.V.1.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle three words or phrases that name coral-science ideas. Box two words that could be useful in many school subjects, then underline nearby words that help explain each circled term. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does transplant mean as it is used for coral fragments?	**to move the grown coral fragments to a damaged reef site**
2	What is a baseline, and how do restoration teams use it?	**A baseline is a starting set of data that teams use for later comparison.**
3	What does resilient most nearly mean in paragraph 3? Use the heat-wave detail to explain your answer.	**able to keep functioning or growing despite difficult changes, such as a heat wave**
4	The word evidence appears in paragraphs 2 and 3. What does it mean in this report?	**facts, observations, or information used to make a decision or judgment**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

City planners analyze how pavement changes local temperatures. Dark asphalt has low albedo, meaning it reflects little sunlight and absorbs more heat. Impervious surfaces, which water cannot soak through, also send rain quickly into storm drains instead of cooling the soil.

Accept reasonable context-based definitions that match the passage. For the open task, accept any accurate three-sentence explanation with one academic word, two topic-specific terms, and useful context clues for both terms.