

Reef Rescue Words

Use context clues and precise vocabulary to discuss coral restoration.

4.7.F “respond using newly acquired vocabulary as appropriate; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the four words fragile, nursery, transplant, and resilient. Underline the nearby words or phrases that help you figure out each word's meaning.

Growing a Reef

- ① Coral reefs may look like colorful rock gardens, but they are built by tiny animals called coral polyps. Reefs provide shelter for fish, crabs, and sea turtles. They are also fragile. Warm water, pollution, and rough storms can harm them. When a reef loses many corals, the animals that depend on its shelter may need to find a new home.
- ② At a Florida Keys coral nursery, scientists grow small pieces of coral on underwater frames. This nursery is not a place for baby animals. It is a protected area where young corals can grow before scientists transplant them, or move them, to a damaged reef. Divers attach the corals carefully so waves do not sweep them away.
- ③ Scientists monitor the transplanted corals by measuring their size and checking their color. These observations help the team decide which corals are resilient, meaning able to recover after trouble. A resilient coral may survive a heat wave better than a weaker coral. Restoring reefs takes time, yet each healthy coral can help rebuild shelter for many ocean animals.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Use the word fragile to explain why coral reefs can be harmed.

2 What does nursery mean in this passage? Use details from the text in your answer.

3 Which vocabulary word describes a coral that can recover after a heat wave?

4 Complete the sentence with a vocabulary word from the passage: Scientists _____ corals by measuring their size and checking their color.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a two-sentence field note about helping an animal habitat. Use at least two vocabulary words from the passage correctly, and include a context clue that explains one of the words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the four words fragile, nursery, transplant, and resilient. Underline the nearby words or phrases that help you figure out each word's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use the word fragile to explain why coral reefs can be harmed.	Coral reefs are fragile, so warm water, pollution, and rough storms can harm them.
2	What does nursery mean in this passage? Use details from the text in your answer.	A nursery is a protected area where young corals grow before they are moved to a damaged reef.
3	Which vocabulary word describes a coral that can recover after a heat wave?	resilient
4	Complete the sentence with a vocabulary word from the passage: Scientists _____ corals by measuring their size and checking their color.	monitor

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the river nursery, workers cared for young mussels before they transplanted them, or moved them, to a cleaner stream. The team will monitor the mussels each week to see whether they are resilient after heavy rain.

Accept answers that use passage vocabulary accurately and support meanings with details from the text. For Part 3, accept any relevant habitat scenario with at least two correctly used vocabulary words and a clear context clue for one word.