Reef Words at Work

Use precise vocabulary to explain how coral reef restoration works.

6.6.F "respond using newly acquired vocabulary as appropriate;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two words in paragraph 1, two words in paragraph 2, and one word in paragraph 3 that name a restoration action, place, or goal. Circle nearby words or phrases that help you figure out each underlined word's meaning.

Growing a Reef Again

1. Along Florida's coast, some scientists are helping damaged coral reefs recover. Coral may look like rock, but it is made by tiny animals called polyps. Storms, warm water, and disease can harm whole sections of a reef. To begin restoration, divers collect small, healthy pieces of coral, called fragments, from colonies that can spare them. The divers place these fragments in an underwater nursery, a protected area where young coral can grow before returning to the reef.

2. At the nursery, workers attach each fragment to a frame or rope. They give the coral space so sunlight and moving water can reach it. After several months, divers transplant the stronger pieces onto bare parts of the reef. They choose locations carefully because currents, depth, and temperature affect survival. A restored reef cannot stop every storm or heat wave. Still, growing many kinds of coral can make the reef more resilient, or better able to recover after a harmful change.

3. Restoration teams continue to monitor the transplanted coral. They record data such as how fast it grows, whether it keeps its color, and which fish return to the area. These observations help teams decide which methods work best. One project may use different coral species or move frames to a cooler place. Reef restoration takes time, and results vary from site to site. However, careful planning and regular observations can improve the chance that a reef community will recover.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What are fragments? Answer using the words fragments and coral.

2. What is an underwater nursery? Answer using nursery and grow.

3. What does resilient mean in the passage? Answer using resilient and recover.

4. After divers transplant coral, what do teams monitor? Answer using transplant, monitor, and data.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A school garden bed was damaged by a long dry spell. Write exactly two sentences describing a plan to help it recover. Use at least three precise vocabulary words from the passage, including transplant or monitor.

ANSWER KEY

Reef Words at Work

GRADE 6 · TEKS 6.6.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two words in paragraph 1, two words in paragraph 2, and one word in paragraph 3 that name a restoration action, place, or goal. Circle nearby words or phrases that help you figure out each underlined word's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are fragments? Answer using the words fragments and coral.	**Fragments are small, healthy pieces of coral collected from colonies that can spare them.**
2	What is an underwater nursery? Answer using nursery and grow.	**An underwater nursery is a protected area where young coral can grow before returning to the reef.**
3	What does resilient mean in the passage? Answer using resilient and recover.	**Resilient means better able to recover after a harmful change.**
4	After divers transplant coral, what do teams monitor? Answer using transplant, monitor, and data.	**After divers transplant coral, teams monitor it and record data about its growth, color, and returning fish.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Gardeners can grow healthy plant fragments in a nursery before they transplant them into the damaged bed. They will monitor the plants each week so the garden becomes more resilient after dry weather.

Accept equivalent responses that use the passage vocabulary accurately and explain the related restoration idea. For Part 3, check for exactly two sentences, at least three appropriate passage words, and a realistic garden recovery plan.