

Reef Word Rescue

Use precise science vocabulary when responding to a text.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the eight vocabulary words whose meanings are explained by nearby clues, then number them in the order they appear. This will help you notice how the author uses precise words to explain coral restoration.

Growing a Reef Again

- ① On a reef near Florida, scientists are helping damaged corals grow again. Coral colonies contain tiny animals called polyps, which build hard skeletons from minerals in seawater. When heat stresses coral, it may bleach, or lose the colorful algae that provide much of its food. Divers collect small, healthy pieces called fragments from surviving colonies. They place the fragments in an underwater nursery, a protected area where young corals can grow before returning to the reef.
- ② At the nursery, workers attach each fragment to a substrate, a surface that can hold it in place. They inspect the corals each month and monitor, or carefully track, changes in size and color. This record helps the team choose corals that seem resilient, meaning able to recover after difficult conditions. Once a fragment has grown, divers transplant it, or move it from one place to another, onto a damaged reef. The team continues to check whether the transplanted corals survive.
- ③ Coral restoration cannot replace the need to reduce warming and pollution. However, nurseries give researchers a way to test which corals can handle changing conditions. A resilient colony may provide fragments for future projects, while regular monitoring shows which methods work best. The work also depends on community choices, such as keeping trash out of waterways and using less energy. By learning these terms, readers can describe the project precisely instead of simply saying that scientists are "fixing" the reef.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Write the vocabulary word that means a protected area where young corals can grow before returning to the reef.

- 2 Replace the words carefully track with the vocabulary word from the passage: Scientists _____ changes in coral size and color.

- 3 A student says, "These corals are tough." Replace tough with a more precise vocabulary word from the passage, then explain what the word means.

- 4 Complete the sentence with a vocabulary word, then explain its meaning: Divers _____ a grown fragment onto a damaged reef.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a school garden or park project. Use at least three vocabulary words from the passage accurately, and make each word's meaning clear through context.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the eight vocabulary words whose meanings are explained by nearby clues, then number them in the order they appear. This will help you notice how the author uses precise words to explain coral restoration. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write the vocabulary word that means a protected area where young corals can grow before returning to the reef.	nursery
2	Replace the words carefully track with the vocabulary word from the passage: Scientists _____ changes in coral size and color.	monitor
3	A student says, "These corals are tough." Replace tough with a more precise vocabulary word from the passage, then explain what the word means.	resilient; able to recover after difficult conditions
4	Complete the sentence with a vocabulary word, then explain its meaning: Divers _____ a grown fragment onto a damaged reef.	transplant; move it from one place to another

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Garden volunteers transplant, or move, seedlings into a substrate that holds their roots. They monitor the plants after a heat wave to see which ones recover and prove resilient.

Accept close definitions that match the passage, such as "a surface that supports coral" for substrate. For the open response, accept any two sentences that use at least three passage vocabulary words accurately and provide enough context to show their meanings.