

## Indian Ocean Reef Answer Key

1. Coral polyps create the strong limestone structures.
2. Reefs provide food, shelter, and protection from predators.
3. Rising water temperatures and pollution are harming reefs.
4. Warmer waters can weaken or kill coral, reducing habitat and food for marine animals.
5. They support many species and help maintain a balanced ecosystem.

### Teacher's Guide

- Introduce this as a focused look at a single ecosystem within the Indian Ocean.
- Use it to build reading comprehension and scientific understanding at the same time.
- Support younger learners by reading the passage aloud or chunking the text.

### Differentiation Tips

- Provide sentence starters for students who struggle with open ended responses.
- Allow advanced learners to add an extra paragraph explaining another Indian Ocean habitat such as mangroves or seagrass beds.
- Encourage students to highlight or underline key vocabulary like **reef**, **polyps**, and **ecosystem**.

### Engagement Ideas

- Invite learners to sketch a coral reef and label at least three species from the passage.
- Create a class conversation about why coral reefs matter to both ocean life and human communities.
- Use short videos or images of real Indian Ocean reefs before the worksheet to build background knowledge.