

Name _____



Maldives And Indian Ocean

Directions: Read the case study carefully. Then answer the guided questions using clear explanations and evidence from the text.

Regional Case Study: The Maldives and the Indian Ocean

The Maldives is a nation made up of hundreds of small coral islands located in the central Indian Ocean. Its islands sit only a few feet above sea level, which makes the country closely connected to the ocean both for survival and for future challenges. The Maldives depends on the Indian Ocean for fishing, which supplies food and jobs for many families. Tourism is another major part of its economy, as visitors come for clear waters, coral reefs, and unique island landscapes.

Although the ocean supports life in the Maldives, it also presents risks. Rising sea levels threaten to flood low islands, and warming ocean temperatures can damage coral reefs. These reefs protect coastlines from strong waves and also support the marine life that draws visitors. Because of these challenges, the Maldives is working with scientists and other countries to protect its reefs, improve sustainability, and prepare for long-term environmental changes.

1. What natural features make the Maldives unique within the Indian Ocean region?
2. Why is the Indian Ocean so important to the daily life and economy of the Maldives?
3. What environmental threats does the Maldives face, based on the case study?
4. How do coral reefs support both the environment and the people of the Maldives?
5. Why might cooperation with scientists and other countries be important for the Maldives?
6. In your opinion, which challenge described in the passage should be addressed first and why?
7. What evidence in the case study shows that the Maldives depends on the Indian Ocean in more than one way?