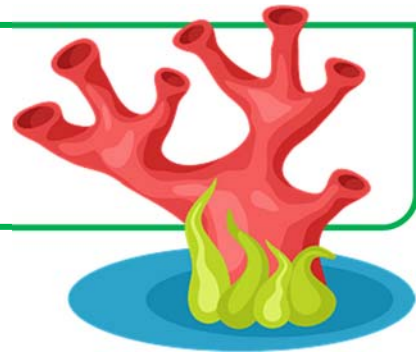


Name _____

Bleaching Balance

Directions: Read both scientific texts. Use information from **both sources** to answer the questions.



Scientific Text One: Coral and Heat

Coral reefs are made of tiny living animals called coral polyps. These polyps live in a close partnership with colorful algae that provide food through photosynthesis. When ocean temperatures rise above normal for long periods, the coral becomes stressed and forces the algae out. Without the algae, the coral turns white, which is known as **coral bleaching**. Bleached coral is still alive, but it is weaker and more likely to die if conditions do not improve.

Scientific Text Two: Recovery and Human Impact

Some coral reefs can recover from bleaching if ocean temperatures return to normal quickly. New algae may move back into the coral, allowing it to regain color and energy. However, human activities such as burning fossil fuels increase carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which warms the oceans. Pollution and coastal runoff also reduce water quality, making it harder for coral to recover. Scientists warn that repeated bleaching events reduce the chance of long term reef survival.

Synthesis Questions

1. What **common cause** of coral bleaching is supported by both texts?
2. How do the two texts together explain why bleaching is **dangerous but sometimes reversible**?
3. According to both sources, how do **human activities** affect coral reefs?
4. What is one reason coral might **fail to recover** after repeated bleaching events?
5. Using information from both texts, explain why coral reefs are considered **fragile ecosystems**.