

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Reef Word Race

**Directions:** You will read an **informational passage** about coral reefs. Your challenge is to **scan quickly** and not read every word to **find and circle the keywords** listed below. You have **two minutes** to locate and circle all the words. Work silently and focus your eyes on the *shapes* and *capital letters* of the target words. After the time is up, reread the passage aloud smoothly, emphasizing key phrases.

coral

fish

habitat

reef

polyp

ecosystem

ocean

colorful

sunlight

bleaching

### “Underwater Cities of Color”

Beneath the waves of warm oceans, vast coral reefs form like underwater cities filled with life. Each coral structure is built by tiny creatures called polyps, which join together to create limestone skeletons. Over time, these skeletons build enormous reef systems that stretch for miles.

These lively habitats attract thousands of fish, crabs, and sea turtles seeking food and shelter. The bright and colorful patterns you see on corals come from tiny algae that live inside them, helping the polyps grow by using sunlight to produce energy. This special teamwork makes the reef a balanced ecosystem, where every organism plays a part.

However, when the ocean water gets too warm, the algae leave the corals. This causes bleaching, turning the reefs white and fragile. Without their rich colors and healthy algae, the reefs struggle to survive, putting the entire habitat at risk. Protecting coral reefs means protecting the future of marine life.