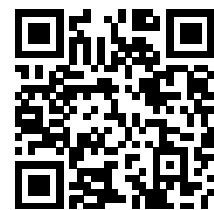


name: \_\_\_\_\_

class: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ocean Ecosystems Unveiled



Oceans cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface, making them a vital part of our planet's \_\_\_\_\_ . They are home to a diverse range of species, from the tiniest plankton to the largest \_\_\_\_\_ . These creatures are interconnected, forming a complex web of life. Marine \_\_\_\_\_ study these ecosystems to understand how life in the ocean survives and thrives.

\_\_\_\_\_, both phytoplankton and zooplankton, are at the base of the oceanic food \_\_\_\_\_. They are crucial because they produce oxygen and serve as food for many marine \_\_\_\_\_. Phytoplankton, in particular, perform photosynthesis, absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing \_\_\_\_\_, which is essential for life on Earth.

Coral reefs, often referred to as the "rainforests of the sea," support a high diversity of life. These underwater structures are built by coral \_\_\_\_\_, tiny animals that live in colonies. Coral reefs provide shelter and food for many marine \_\_\_\_\_, acting as important breeding and feeding grounds.

The ocean is also home to seagrass \_\_\_\_\_, which are important for carbon sequestration. These underwater meadows provide habitat for a variety of \_\_\_\_\_, including fish, sea turtles, and seahorses. Seagrass beds help stabilize the ocean floor and protect coastal \_\_\_\_\_ from erosion.

Marine protected areas (MPAs) have been established to safeguard these critical ecosystems. MPAs limit human \_\_\_\_\_ in these regions, helping to conserve marine biodiversity and promote sustainable use of marine \_\_\_\_\_.

Marine biologists play a key role in conserving ocean ecosystems. They conduct research, monitor marine life, and assess the \_\_\_\_\_ of marine environments. Their work helps inform conservation \_\_\_\_\_ and practices, ensuring the long-term health of the ocean and its \_\_\_\_\_.

- |           |           |        |            |            |          |             |        |          |
|-----------|-----------|--------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|--------|----------|
| resources | ecosystem | polyps | chain      | whales     | policies | inhabitants | oxygen |          |
| animals   | Plankton  | areas  | biologists | activities | health   | species     | beds   | sea life |