

Pirates Discover Ocean Ecosystem Treasures

Grade 3

English

Nonfiction

Pirates Theme

~148 words

Name: _____ Date: _____

READ

Long ago, pirates sailed the seas searching for treasure. What they discovered was even more valuable than gold: amazing ocean ecosystems. An ecosystem is a community of plants and animals living together in one place. Ocean ecosystems are homes to thousands of creatures. Fish swim through coral reefs, which are colorful structures built by tiny animals called coral polyps. These reefs protect small fish and provide food for larger animals. Seaweed grows on the ocean floor and feeds many sea creatures. Pirates learned that the ocean's treasure was its living balance. When one animal or plant disappeared, others suffered. Sharks hunted fish, and fish ate smaller creatures and plants. This food chain kept the ecosystem healthy. The pirates realized protecting these ecosystems meant protecting their future. They understood that the ocean's greatest wealth was not in chests of coins, but in the incredible life thriving beneath the waves.

ANSWER GO BACK TO THE PASSAGE TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what do coral polyps build and why is it important?

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'ecosystem' mean in the passage?

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think pirates eventually cared about protecting ocean ecosystems?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happens in a food chain if one animal or plant disappears?

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. Name two things mentioned in the passage that live in ocean ecosystems.

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

7. Why did the author write this passage?

✓ ANSWER KEY — Pirates Discover Ocean Ecosystem Treasures

Grade 3

English

Nonfiction

Pirates Theme

~148 words

TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

□ READ

Long ago, pirates sailed the seas searching for treasure. What they discovered was even more valuable than gold: amazing ocean ecosystems. An ecosystem is a community of plants and animals living together in one place. Ocean ecosystems are homes to thousands of creatures. Fish swim through coral reefs, which are colorful structures built by tiny animals called coral polyps. These reefs protect small fish and provide food for larger animals. Seaweed grows on the ocean floor and feeds many sea creatures. Pirates learned that the ocean's treasure was its living balance. When one animal or plant disappeared, others suffered. Sharks hunted fish, and fish ate smaller creatures and plants. This food chain kept the ecosystem healthy. The pirates realized protecting these ecosystems meant protecting their future. They understood that the ocean's greatest wealth was not in chests of coins, but in the incredible life thriving beneath the waves.

⇒ ANSWER

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

The passage is mostly about how pirates discovered that ocean ecosystems are valuable and how creatures depend on each other to survive.

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what do coral polyps build and why is it important?

According to the passage, coral polyps build coral reefs, which are important because they protect small fish and provide food for larger animals.

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'ecosystem' mean in the passage?

An ecosystem is a community of plants and animals living together in one place.

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think pirates eventually cared about protecting ocean ecosystems?

Pirates realized that the ocean's living creatures and plants were more valuable than gold because they kept the ocean healthy for the future.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happens in a food chain if one animal or plant disappears?

If one animal or plant disappears from the food chain, other creatures that depend on it will suffer because they lose their food or protection.

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. Name two things mentioned in the passage that live in ocean ecosystems.

Two things that live in ocean ecosystems are fish and seaweed, which are mentioned as providing food and homes for sea creatures.

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

7. Why did the author write this passage?

The author wrote this passage to teach readers about ocean ecosystems and show that protecting nature is more valuable than seeking treasure.