

Name _____

The Barracuda's Role in the Ocean Ecosystem

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Barracudas are important to the ocean's balance because they control smaller fish populations, strengthen fish health by preying on the weak, and serve as food for larger predators.
2. If there were no barracudas, smaller fish populations could grow too large, leading to overgrazing of seagrass and depletion of plankton, which would harm the entire ecosystem.
3. Humans can help barracudas thrive by reducing overfishing, protecting coral reefs, and cleaning up ocean pollution.
4. Answers will vary. Students might study how barracudas hunt, their interactions with other species, or their impact on coral reef ecosystems.