

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Coral Reefs: Guardians of Marine Biodiversity in Peril

### Short Answer Key

1. Coral reefs provide shelter and protection for marine organisms through their complex structure, which offers hiding places and safety from predators.
2. Coral bleaching weakens corals, making them more susceptible to disease, and can lead to the decline of marine life that depends on them.
3. Ocean acidification hinders the ability of corals to build their skeletons by reducing the availability of carbonate ions.
4. Coral reefs are considered biodiversity hotspots because they host a high species diversity despite covering a small portion of the ocean floor.
5. Individuals can contribute to the conservation of coral reefs by practicing responsible tourism, reducing carbon emissions, and supporting organizations dedicated to reef protection.

