

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Coral Reefs: Guardians of Marine Biodiversity in Peril

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Threats to coral reefs are interconnected as climate change can exacerbate other threats like pollution and overfishing. Rising sea temperatures from climate change can trigger coral bleaching, weakening corals and making them more susceptible to diseases. Pollution from land runoff can introduce harmful substances that harm marine life, while overfishing disrupts the balance of coral reef ecosystems.
2. Individuals and communities have a responsibility to conserve coral reefs by practicing sustainable fishing, reducing pollution, and supporting policies and organizations dedicated to their protection. Responsible tourism and raising awareness about coral reefs are also essential.
3. Artists like Wyland can use their talents to inspire action by creating artwork that highlights the beauty and fragility of coral reefs. Their art can evoke emotions and raise awareness, motivating people to get involved in conservation efforts.
4. Coral reefs are vital in supporting marine biodiversity and play a crucial role in global ecosystems. They provide habitats, breeding grounds, and feeding areas for countless marine species, contributing to the health and balance of our oceans. Their importance extends beyond biodiversity as they protect coastlines from erosion and generate income through tourism and fisheries. Preserving coral reefs is essential for the well-being of both marine life and human communities.

