

Name _____

Understanding the Threats to Ocean Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Short Answer Key

1. Possible answer: Pollution in the oceans can harm marine life, damage coral reefs, and create dead zones where oxygen levels are too low for most organisms to survive.
2. Possible answer: Overfishing can disrupt marine food webs and ecosystems by depleting certain species, leading to imbalances in predator-prey relationships.
3. Possible answer: Habitat destruction can reduce the availability of critical habitats like mangroves and coral reefs, which provide shelter and food for numerous marine species, ultimately reducing biodiversity.
4. Possible answer: Ocean acidification can harm marine organisms with calcium carbonate shells or skeletons, leading to weakened shells and reduced reproductive success.
5. Possible answer: Invasive species can outcompete native species for resources, disrupt ecosystem functions, and alter the structure of food webs.

