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Biodiversity Hotspots

Coral reefs are often referred to as "rainforests of the sea" due to their unparalleled biodiversity. They provide shelter, breeding grounds, and food for countless marine species, from colorful fish and invertebrates to charismatic megafauna like sea turtles and sharks. The complex structure of coral reefs offers

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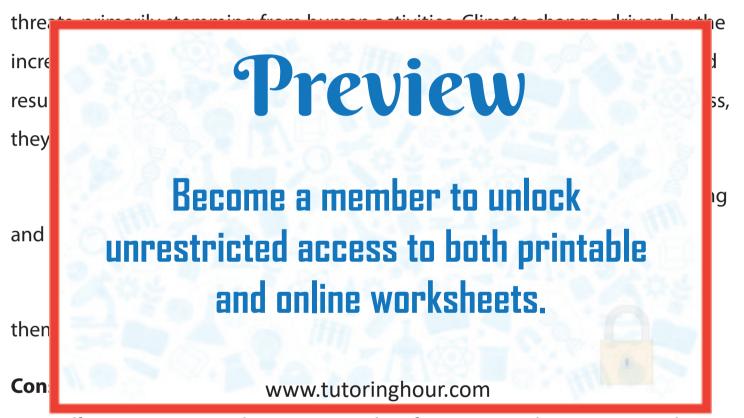
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niches for a wide range of organisms to thrive, making them rich and productive ecosystems.

Challenges and Threats

Despite their ecological significance, coral reefs face numerous challenges and



Efforts to protect and conserve coral reefs are essential to preserving these valuable ecosystems. Marine protected areas, where fishing and other human activities are restricted, help safeguard coral reefs and their biodiversity.

Sustainable fishing practices and the promotion of responsible tourism can also reduce the negative impacts on these ecosystems.

Additionally, raising awareness about the importance of coral reefs and the

need for their protection is crucial. Scientific research and monitoring play a vital role in understanding the dynamics of coral reef ecosystems and assessing the effectiveness of conservation measures.

Conclusion: Guardians of the Ocean



	What is the mutualistic relationship between coral polyps and zooxanthel and how does it benefit both organisms?	lae,
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3) What specific conservation measures and strategies are mentioned in the passage to protect coral reef ecosystems?

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- 5) Why are coral reefs often referred to as the "rainforests of the sea"?
 - a) due to their high levels of annual rainfall
 - b) because they are found in regions with frequent storms
 - c) because they are home to a large number of amphibious species
 - d) because of their unparalleled biodiversity and complex structure

6) What is the meaning of the term "bleaching" as used in the passage when describing the impact of climate change on coral reefs?

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