

Kids' pages Investigations

Topic: Coral reefs



Summer 2020 edition

Instructions: Read through the appropriate *Kids' Pages* edition and answer the questions below. Once all the questions have been completed, refer to the Answer Key to check your work.

Multiple Choice (choose one):

- Why don't large coral reef communities grow in the Tampa Bay estuary?
 - Corals cannot grow in seagrass.
 - The water is too shallow.
 - Environmental conditions change too frequently.
 - The water is too deep.
- What is the name of the large reef system on Florida's southern coast?
 - The Southern Reef Tract
 - The Florida Barrier Reef
 - The Great Fringe Reef
 - The Florida Reef Tract
- Over how many miles does this reef system stretch?
 - 400
 - 350
 - 300
 - 250
- How many species of coral make up the reef tract?
 - 50
 - 60
 - 70
 - 80
- What are the two types of corals?
 - Boulder corals and brain corals
 - Sea whips and branching corals
 - Sea fans and soft corals
 - Stony corals and octocorals

Fill in the Blank:

- The Florida Reef Tract most closely resembles a barrier reef; however, because it's close to the coast, it is more appropriately called a _____ reef.
- The Florida Reef Tract dates back to over 10,000 years ago when it began forming with the thawing of the _____ (two words).
- The coral species _____ (three words) is considered one of the deepest-dwelling stony corals in Florida.
- Corals are animals that are related to _____ and _____.

Short Response:

- According to the Conservation Corner of *Kids' Pages*, Stony Coral Tissue Loss (aka, "White Plague") is a disease ripping through corals across the Florida Reef Tract. Name five different ways you can help reduce stress on corals in Florida.