

Use the word in brackets to form a new word that fits into each blank.

A recent study shows that the world's coral reefs have been showing signs of strong bleaching due to global (1) _____ (WARM). In the 1980s bleaching was a rare (2) _____ (OCCUR) which came about every 25 years. Now the rate has risen to about once every five years. (3) _____ (ENVIRONMENT) predict that by 2050 bleaching will happen every year or two.



*Bleached Coral Reef at Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef
Image: Acropora at English Wikipedia [CC BY-SA 3.0]*

Bleaching is caused when warm water breaks down the algae inside the reefs. They provide food for the corals and keep them (4) _____ (HEALTH). When algae fall off, corals suffer a (5) _____ (LOSE) of colour and can die within a short period of time. Even if the water (6) _____ (SURROUND) the reefs gets colder again it may take years for the damaged reefs to recover (7) _____ (COMPLETE).

While bleaching is especially a problem in the waters of the Caribbean Sea and Western Atlantic, reefs around Australia and South Africa have hardly been hit. In (8) _____ (ADD) to the warming temperatures of the oceans, coral reefs are also (9) _____ (DANGER) by (10) _____ (POLLUTE) and overfishing.

Coral reefs are an important ecosystem. They are home to 25% of all marine species and provide a habitat for (11) _____ (COUNT) types of fish. Reefs protect (12) _____ (COAST) regions from flooding and tidal waves. Coral reefs are also tourist (13) _____ (ATTRACT) that lure millions of people every year. The tourist industry around the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, for example, is worth about 5 billion dollars a year.

KEY

A recent study shows that the world's coral reefs have been showing signs of strong bleaching due to global **(1) warming (WARM)**. In the 1980s bleaching was a rare **(2) occurrence (OCCUR)** which came about every 25 years. Now the rate has risen to about once every five years. **(3) Environmentalists (ENVIRONMENT)** predict that by 2050 bleaching will happen every year or two.

Bleaching is caused when warm water breaks down the algae inside the reefs. They provide food for the corals and keep them **(4) healthy (HEALTH)**. When algae fall off, corals suffer a **(5) loss (LOSE)** of colour and can die within a short period of time. Even if the water **(6) surrounding (SURROUND)** the reefs gets colder again it may take years for the damaged reefs to recover **(7) completely (COMPLETE)**.

While bleaching is especially a problem in the waters of the Caribbean Sea and Western Atlantic, reefs around Australia and South Africa have hardly been hit. In **(8) addition (ADD)** to the warming temperatures of the oceans, coral reefs are also **(9) endangered (DANGER)** by **(10) pollution (POLLUTE)** and overfishing.

Coral reefs are an important ecosystem. They are home to 25% of all marine species and provide a habitat for **(11) countless (COUNT)** types of fish. Reefs protect **(12) coastal (COAST)** regions from flooding and tidal waves. Coral reefs are also tourist **(13) attractions (ATTRACT)** that lure millions of people every year. The tourist industry around the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, for example, is worth about 5 billion dollars a year.