

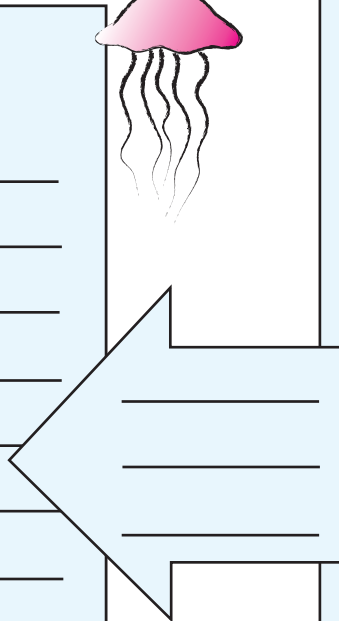
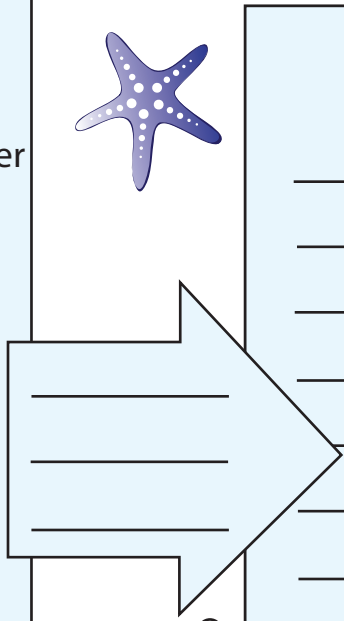
Name: _____

Earth's Ecosystem: The Coral Reef

Instructions: Read each paragraph. Use the space inside each arrow to take notes on each source. Then use the information from both paragraphs to synthesize, compare, and contrast the information from both sources.

Plants

You might already know about trees and flowers but underwater plants can be just as important! In a coral reef plants convert sunlight to energy. Sometimes they are food for animals such as fish. Algae produces oxygen, which is also a necessary part of an ecosystem. Many parts of the ecosystem rely on the work of plants.



Coral

Look! Beneath the clear blue water is an exquisite coral reef. A coral reef may appear to be only a rock, but it is really a living part of an ecosystem! Coral larvae attach to rocks and as they grow the reef expands. A coral reef helps to remove and recycle carbon dioxide. Algae finds a home within the reef. Coral also provides a shelter for animals. A coral reef is both impressive and vital to the survival of the organisms.

