

Name: _____

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Grade 8 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

MARINE FUNGI

From Discover Science Series
Oceans

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Beneath the ocean floor lives a largely unstudied community of microbial life that scientists have dubbed the 'dark biosphere' and are now only just beginning to explore. One type of life that researchers are particularly excited about is ancient marine fungi because of its genetic variety and potential for developing new medicines and drugs.

"Fungi can produce interesting natural compounds, some of which are antibiotics," says microbiologist William Orsi of the Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. "Deep biosphere fungi are an untapped resource by the pharmaceutical industry."

Orsi has analyzed sediment from as deep as 127m beneath the sea floor, retrieved from ocean basins around the world.

There he has discovered a diverse fungi community living in the mud, some of which is 2.7 million years old. The oldest fungi living in the sediment of the Pacific Ocean has been found to correlate closely with the amount of organic carbon sediments present, which indicates their role in carbon recycling in the sub-surface ecosystem.

That's not so surprising if you consider that some fungi species have the natural ability to break down industrial toxins, and even crude oil components that have been released into the ocean. Not all seafaring fungi is so eco-friendly, however. For instance, the fungus known to cause dandruff and eczema in humans has been found throughout the ocean, but largely favours coral reefs where it has been implicated in disease and ecological decline.



Answer the questions.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
2. Explain what you learned.
3. Underline the most important information in each paragraph.
4. Write a summary. Tell what is most important.

Grade 8 Comprehension

Raffaela Di Napoli

A red circular graphic with a gradient, appearing as a stylized arrow or a partial circle, located to the right of the author's name.

Grade 8 Comprehension:

Grade 8 Comprehension: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a remarkable surge in literary brilliance, with numerous captivating novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of top-selling books, exploring the engaging narratives that have captivated audiences this year. The Must-Read : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This heartfelt tale of love, loss, and resilience has gripped readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover expertly weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can triumph. Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reid's "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This captivating historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reid's captivating storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Grade 8 Comprehension : Delia Owens' "Where the Crawdads Sing" This captivating coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens crafts a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, captivating readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These bestselling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of engaging stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a exceptional and gripping novel that will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

<https://staging.conocer.cide.edu/results/Resources/HomePages/irk%20internet%20research%20illustrated%20course%20guide.pdf>

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