## Student Reading Comprehension Questions

“Acidic Seas: How Carbon Dioxide Is Changing the Oceans”, *ChemMatters*, February/March 2018

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Name

**Directions**: Use the article to answer the questions below.

1. Complete the following table to describe unhealthy signs of and threats to ocean coral.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Signs of Unhealthy Coral** | **Threat Responsible for Those Signs** |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. Give two reasons why researchers are concerned about the health of coral reefs that make up less than 1% of the Earth’s surface.
2. What causes ocean warming and acidification?
3. Why is the term “greenhouse effect” misleading when used to describe ocean warming and acidification?
4. How do (a) greenhouses and (b) atmospheric gases trap heat?
5. Why are human activities that release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere causing concern?

**Student Reading Comprehension Questions, cont.**

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1. What happens after warm oceans cause stressed corals to expel the symbiotic algae living in their tissues?
2. How does the water chemistry change as carbon dioxide gas is dissolved in the ocean water?
3. What does a drop in ocean pH from 8.2 to 8.1 mean?
4. How do coral reefs help protect the shore during storms?
5. What are two economic risks of ocean acidification?
6. According to the author, what two things will ocean scientists in the future need to understand?