Unit 6 Study Guide

**Corals: The Animal**

1. What is a coral in regards to its classification?
2. What is the structure of a polyp? Be prepared to label parts and give functions
3. How do corals compete for space on a reef? (from video)
4. Describe the relationship between zooxanthellae and coral.
5. When do corals feed? What do they eat?
6. Explain the reproductive strategy used by coral and why it’s advantageous. What are some potential disadvantages to this strategy?
7. What makes up the “base” of a coral? (all the stuff below the polyp)

**Coral Reefs:**

1. Where are the majority of coral reefs located?
2. What are the optimal conditions for a reef?
3. What other ecosystem are coral reefs compared to?
4. What are the 3 types of reefs? Describe.
5. What are the 3 zones/parts of a reef? Describe.
6. What are some threats to coral reefs? Give me several.
7. Why would overfishing affect the reef?
8. What are some things we can do to protect the coral reefs?
9. What are some benefits of coral reefs?
10. Why would corals bleach themselves? What causes this?
11. When a reef is covered in algae, is this good or bad? Why?

**Relationships on the Reef**

1. What is a symbiotic relationship?
2. What is commensalism? Give an example.
3. What is mutualism? Give and example.
4. What is parasitism? Give an example.