

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Watch *Crown-of-Thorns Starfish Crisis* YouTube video (<https://youtu.be/Yb0RvgxGkeg>) and answer the following questions.

1. What population can threaten the balance of the coral reef ecosystem?

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2. List the oceans where we find crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS)?

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3. Describe at least 3 characteristics of the crown-of-thorns starfish.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

4. List the steps that allow COTS to feed.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What time of day do corals typically feed?

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6. How much coral can COTS eat per year?

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7. Why is there a problem when there are COTS populations spikes?

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8. How many eggs can one COTS produce?

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9. How many COTS can be found on a reef during an outbreak?

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10. How old are some of the corals that COTS eat?

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11. What are two events that can be more damaging to coral reefs than a COTS outbreak?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

12. List four COTS predators.

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13. What is thought to cause COTS outbreaks?

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14. How do scientists mitigate a COTS outbreak?

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15. List 3 factors that corals require in order to recover from a COTS outbreak.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

16. Can a coral reef recover after a COTS outbreak?

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