

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mangroves: Protectors of the Coast **Answer Key**

1. *What is a mangrove forest called?*

- a) Root system
- b) Mangrove
- c) **Mangal**
- d) Prop roots

2. *Name 2 of the 4 species of mangrove trees found in Florida.*

Red mangrove, black mangrove, white mangrove and/or buttonwood

3. *Which mangrove species has looping “prop roots” and tends to grow closest to the shoreline?*

- a) White
- b) Black
- c) **Red**
- d) Buttonwood

4. *What are the unique structures dropped by red mangroves that help them reproduce called?*

- a) Seeds
- b) Pollination
- c) Pods
- d) **Propagules**

5. *What are some ways mangroves have adapted to living in salt water?*

Red mangroves use prop roots to root into deeper water, white and black mangroves secrete salt from their leaves, black mangroves have pneumatophores for gas exchange in swampy waters

6. Which of the following animals would most likely NOT be found in a mangrove forest?

- a) Roseate spoonbill
- b) Blue Whale
- c) American crocodile
- d) Hermit crab

7. Name an animal that is found in mangrove forests and the area of the forest (submerged roots, forest understory, forest canopy) they inhabit.

Sediments: shellfish, submerged roots: barnacles, tunicates and fish, canopy: birds and lizards

8. In your own words, what does it mean to say mangrove forests act as great “nursery grounds” for certain animals?

Their networks of roots provide safe hiding areas for smaller marine animals to hide from larger predators

9. How do mangroves protect the coast from storms and floods?

Mangroves act as a buffer zone to stop storm surge. Their roots also stabilize the soils to prevent coastal erosion.

10. If mangrove forests are destroyed, how might this affect the atmosphere?

Mangroves store an enormous amount of carbon. If they are destroyed, that carbon will be released into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas and major driver of climate change.