

CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS / LESSON OVERVIEW

Objectives

The students will:

- Learn what a coral reef is;
- Learn about the adaptations of animals that live in coral reefs;
- Learn what a food chain is;
- Learn the potentially negative effects of removing an animal from a food chain.

Lesson Summary

Part 1. Introduction

Is coral a plant or an animal? What is a coral reef?

Part 2. All About Coral

There are 5,000 different kinds of coral! Students learn all about coral, including basic anatomy and ecology.

Part 3. Life in a Coral Reef

Did you know that 25% of all the ocean species depend on coral reefs for food or shelter at some point in their lives? Considering there are over 1 million known ocean species, that's a lot of organisms that depend on coral reefs!

Part 4. Coral Reef Conservation

Coral reefs are vital but fragile ecosystems. What threats do they face? How are sharks related to the health of coral reefs and the ocean? Students learn how they can help!

Activity 1. Coral Reef Lap Book

During this activity, students will research information about coral reefs and the animals that live there to create a "lap book".

Materials

- Construction paper
- File folders
- Markers, crayons, color pencils
- Glue