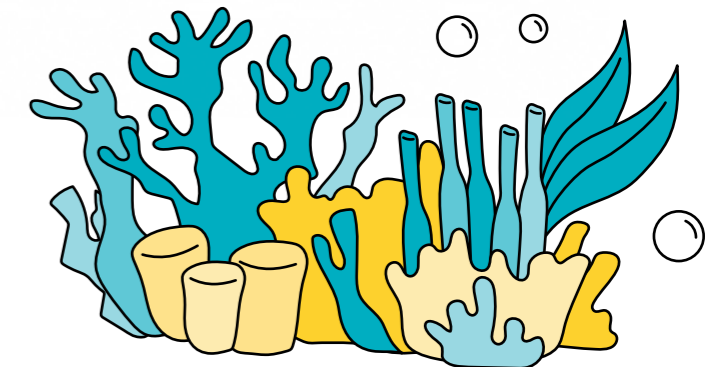


UNDER THE SEA: CORAL REEFS

Coral reefs may just look like colourful rocks, but they are actually made of corals – living organisms that resemble plants and trees. Home to a quarter of the world’s sea creatures, coral reefs are one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on earth.



Did you know that:

- Coral reefs make up less than 0.1% of the ocean
- More than 50% of the world’s coral reefs have died
- Up to 90% may die within the next century

Why are coral reefs endangered?



Pollution

Plastic waste, fuel leaks, and oil spills are some of the threats that cause serious damage to coral reefs.



Overfishing

Excessive and destructive fishing practices destabilise the natural ecosystem.



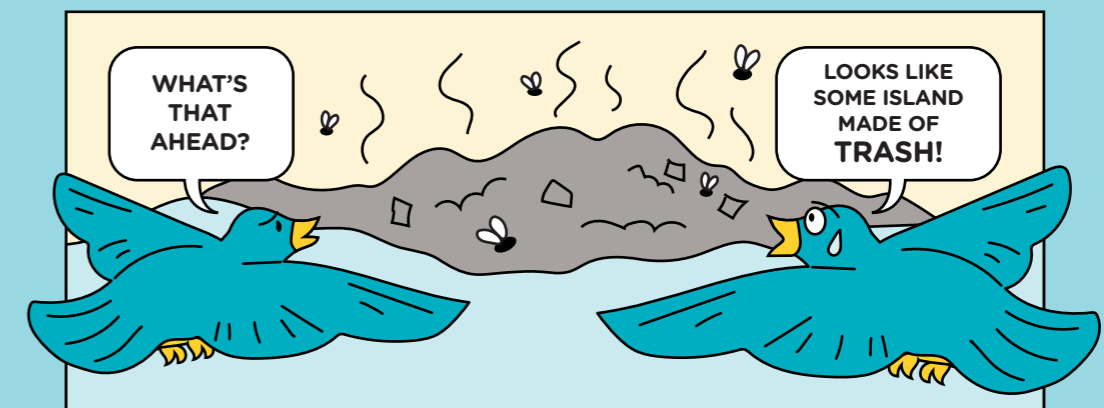
Rising sea temperatures

Global warming makes the oceans warmer and more acidic, increasing the stress on coral reefs.

FUN FACT

Trash Island

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a big mass of ocean trash sitting between the waters of Japan and Hawaii. It spans 1.6 million square kilometres, an area twice the size of Texas or three times the size of France. It continues to grow at an alarming rate as more waste is carried there by powerful ocean currents.



Sources:

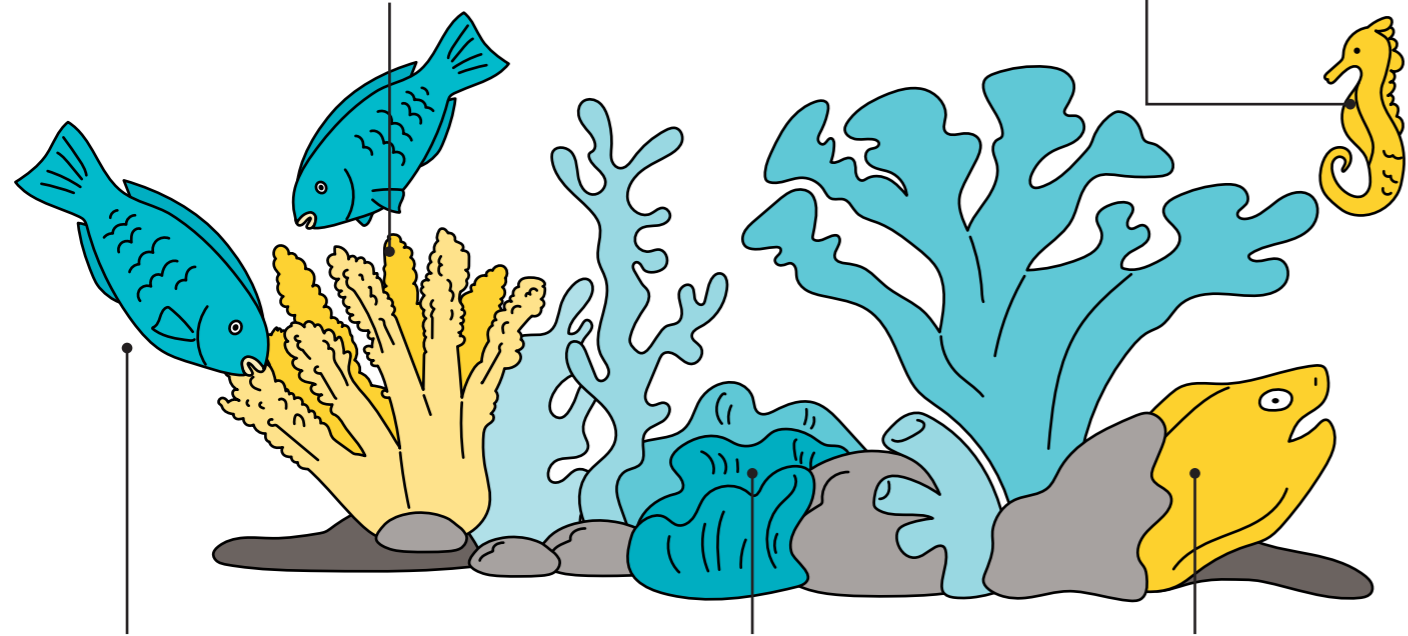
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 Keppeler, J. (2022). *20 Fun Facts about Marine Habitats*. Gareth Stevens Publishing.
 Coral Reef Facts. (n.d.). National Geographic Kids. www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/general-geography/coral-reef-facts/
 Pagel-Hogan, E. (2022). *Ocean Plastics Problem*. Capstone Press.

Get Current With Coral Affairs!

A coral reef community is made of many types of plants, animals, and microorganisms, including endangered species. Within the ecosystem, they each play a part to keep their home and neighbours alive and thriving! Unscramble the letters in the brackets to learn more about them. The first has been done for you.

The **(rolbocic colra)**
broccoli coral
has tiny spikes that protect them from predators and human interference.

The **(spyin eassroeh)**
is a vulnerable population that has declined by over 30% in the last 10 to 15 years.



The **(arspithrfo)** are the only coral residents who scrape and clean coral reefs, making them critical to the reef's ecosystem.

The **(aelg)** live in corals and give them their vibrant colours. Corals, when stressed by warmer water temperatures and pollution, will expel algae. This process is known as coral bleaching as corals will turn white and skeletal.

The **(gitan moyra lee)** is known as the master of the coral reefs in the Red Sea.

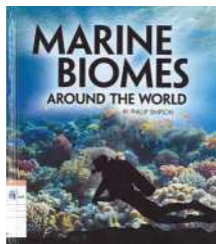


Visit [here](https://go.gov.sg/answer-coralreef) for answers to this activity!

Recommended Reads



Ocean Plastics Problem (Max Axiom and the Society of Super Scientists)
Author: Elizabeth Pagel-Hogan
Call No.: Y 363.738 PAG
Publisher: Capstone Press, 2022



Marine Biomes Around the World
Author: Phillip Simpson
Call No.: J 577.7 SIM
Publisher: Capstone Press, 2020



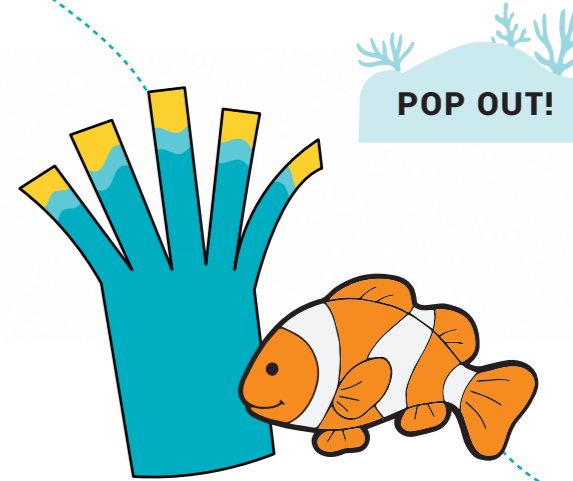
Coral Reefs
Author: Karen Latchana Kenney
Call No.: J 577.7 KEN
Publisher: Bellwether Media, 2022

All book covers are copyright of their respective publishers.

Sources:
Alberts, E. C. (2022, February 2). *Safe Haven for Coral Reefs will Disappear as Oceans Warm, Study Says*. Mongabay. news.mongabay.com/2022/02/safe-havens-for-coral-reefs-will-disappear-as-oceans-warm-study-says/
Gish, M. (2019). *Coral Reef Communities*. Creative Education and Creative Paperbacks.

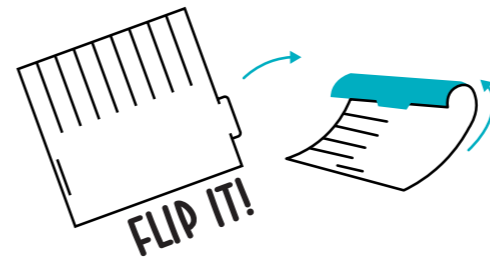
No Clowning Around

Anemones protect clownfish from predators, while clownfish fertilise anemones with their faeces. Make an anemone in this activity!

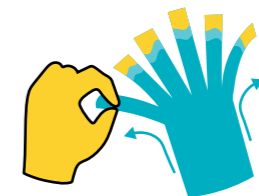


Instructions:

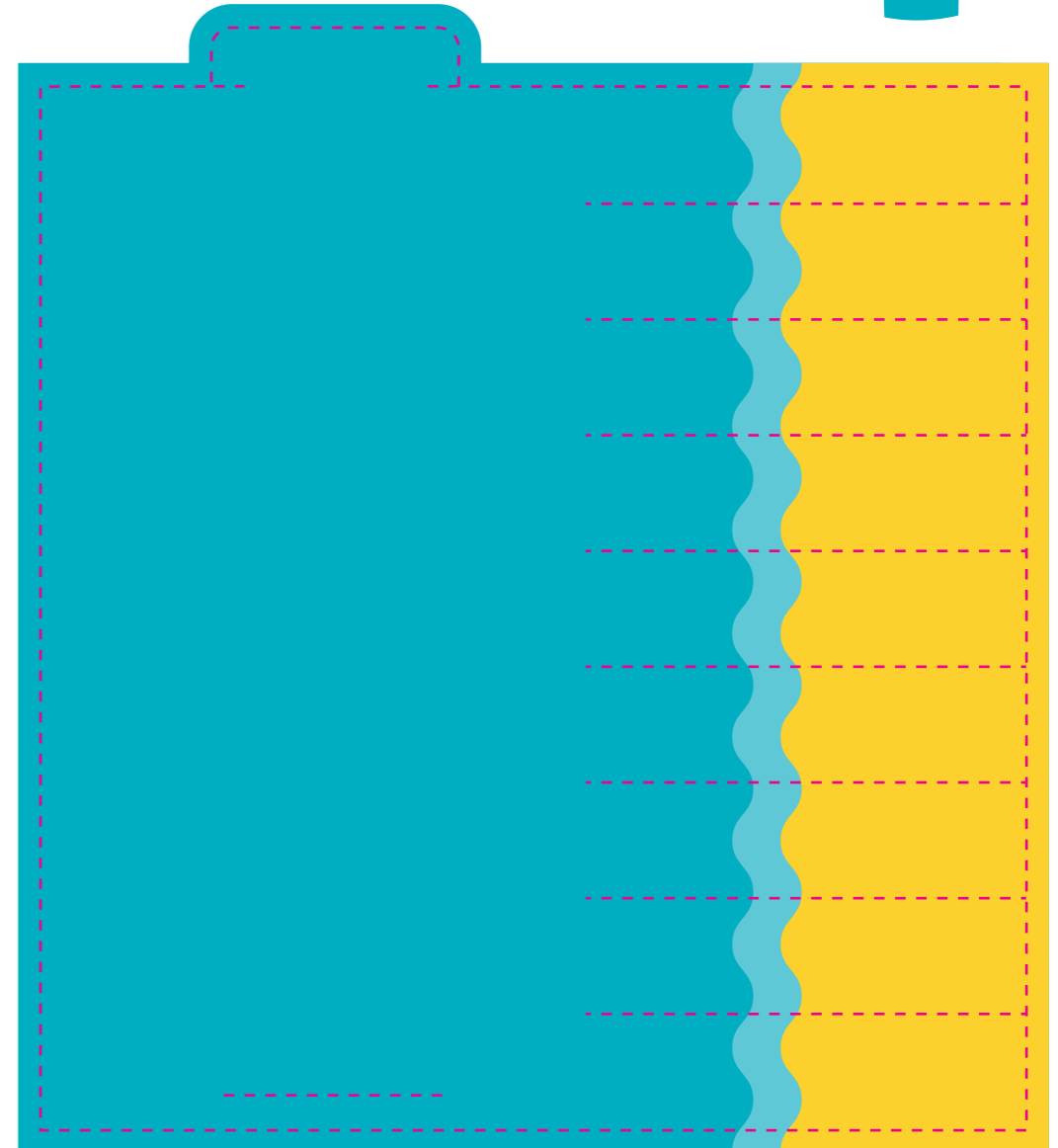
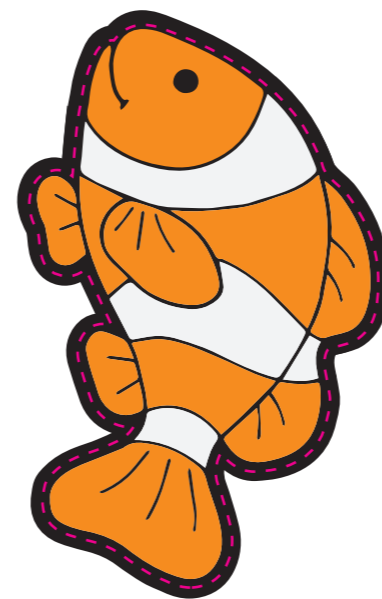
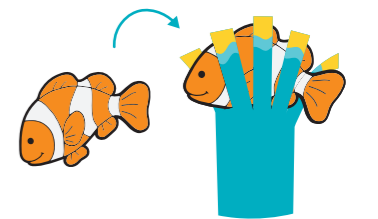
1 Pop out the rectangular piece. Roll and secure it into a cylindrical shape to form the anemone.



2 Fold the strips so that they fan out and give the anemone its wavy look.



3 Pop out the clownfish from the sheet and put it together with the anemone!



Source:

Clownfish/Anemone Craft. (2020, April 20). Doodlebugs Animal Adventures. <https://www.doodlebugsanimaladventures.com/post/clownfish-anemone-craft>
Simpson, P. (2020). *Marine Biomes Around the World*. Capstone Press.