

Types Of Coral Reefs: Discover the Wonders of These Diverse Underwater Ecosystems

In the vast expanse of the world's oceans, a mesmerizing array of underwater wonders can be found. One of the most fascinating and important ecosystems is coral reefs. These delicate and diverse ecosystems are home to a remarkable variety of marine life, making them a treasure trove for researchers, divers, and nature enthusiasts alike. In this article, we will explore the different types of coral reefs, each with its unique characteristics and contribution to the marine world.

The Fringing Reefs

Life on the Coral Reef



Producers

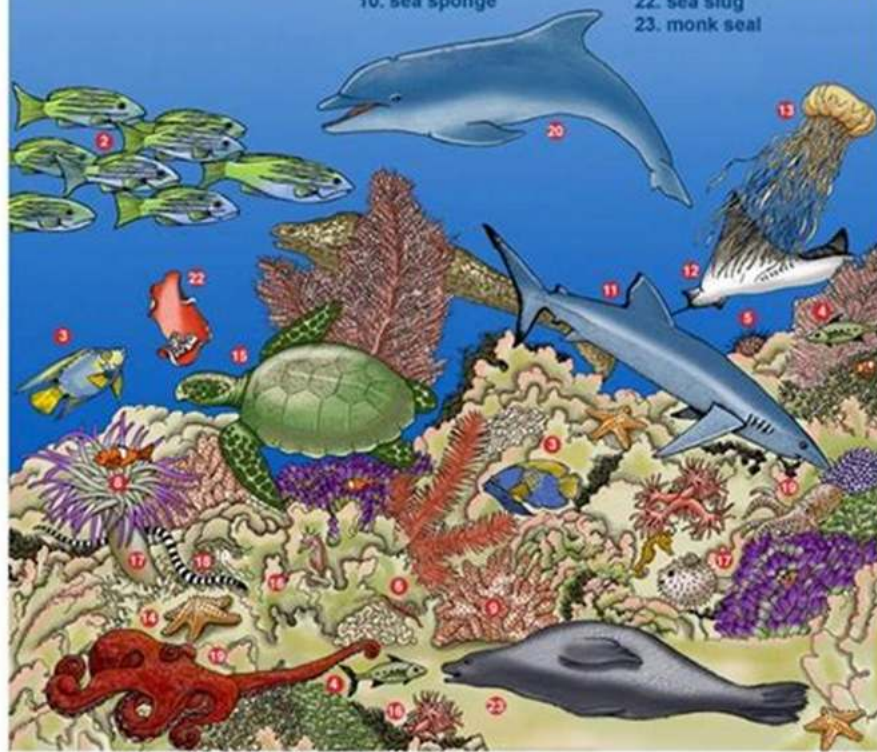
1. phytoplankton

Primary Consumers

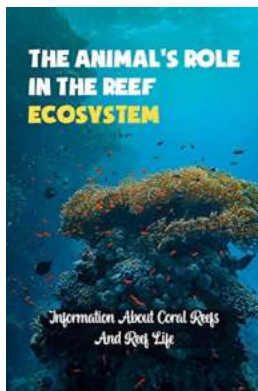
- 2. blue striped snappers
- 3. angelfish
- 4. jackfish
- 5. sea urchin
- 6. shrimp
- 7. sea fan
- 8. clown fish
- 9. coral
- 10. sea sponge

Secondary Consumers

- 11. blue shark
- 12. stingray
- 13. jellyfish
- 14. starfish
- 15. sea turtle
- 16. sea anemone
- 17. pufferfish
- 18. sea snake
- 19. octopus
- 20. bottlenose dolphin
- 21. moray eel
- 22. sea slug
- 23. monk seal



The Barrier Reefs



The Animal's Role In The Reef Ecosystem: Information About Coral Reefs And Reef Life: Types Of Coral Reefs by Matthew Lavine (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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 Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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The Atolls

Types of Coral Reefs

- **Fringing reefs** are reefs that are in the ocean off the coast of land. They grow in shallow water. ³
- **Barrier reefs** grow off shorelines, but farther out. Between the land and these reefs is deep water (a lagoon). They are called barrier reefs because they form a barrier between the lagoon and the ocean. ³
- **Coral Atolls** are rings of coral that grow on top of old, sunken volcanoes in the ocean. They start as fringe reefs around islands made from volcanoes. When the volcano sinks, the reef keeps growing. Finally, the volcano sinks all the way, and all that is left is the reef. ³



17



18



19

The Patch Reefs

Corals: the current situation

Corals have existed for over **400 million years**. The Mediterranean Sea used to house the largest number of corals, but none are left today.



Corals are relatives of **jellyfish and sea anemones**.

Reef-building corals live in shallow, tropical waters between **20-29°C**.



DID YOU KNOW? Coral colonies are made up of hundreds or thousands of tiny **polyps**.



Corals are very **fragile and sensitive**. Changes to **temperature** cause **bleaching**, which can prevent growth and destroy reefs.



Plastic factories, including **landfills**, **incinerators** and **landfills** all pose a threat to corals.

70% of the world's reefs have been lost. **10%** are seriously threatened in the next 10-20 years.

DID YOU KNOW? There are two types of coral - **hard and soft**.

There are currently **25 families of corals** and approximately **1,500 species**.

Corals are **essential** to humans as they provide **food**, **protect the shoreline**, and create **tourism-based jobs** and even **medicines**.

DID YOU KNOW? Coral reefs are the most diverse marine ecosystems on Earth.

Corals are threatened by **erosion**. **Deforestation** causes more sediment to wash on to the reefs, depriving the corals of **light, oxygen and food**.



DID YOU KNOW? Corals are **alive!** They are very **fragile animals**, many of which are listed as **Endangered** or **Critically Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List**.

Natural events, including **tropical storms** and **earthquakes** can lead to coral **breaking up**.



DID YOU KNOW? The Great Barrier Reef began growing **20,000 years ago!** It is the **largest reef**, spanning **1,600 miles**, and can even be seen from space.

The Deep has been working with **SECORE** for **over 10 years** on coral restoration around the world (including **Guam, Curaçao and Belize**). Work includes improving reproduction techniques to help **reverse coral bleaching**. To find out more about The Deep's conservation work, visit www.thedeep.co.uk/conservation.

For conservation

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THREATS TO CORAL REEFS OVERFISHING

Coral reef fish are a significant food source for over a billion people worldwide. Many coastal and island communities depend on coral reef fisheries for their economic, social, and cultural benefits. BUT too much of a good thing can be bad for coral reefs.

FISHING NURSERIES
Nearshore habitats serve as nurseries for many fish. Catching young fish in nets removes them before they can help replenish the population.

INDISCRIMINATE FISHING
Use of non-selective gears, like nets and traps, often removes more herbivorous fishes. These fish eat algae and help keep the ecosystem in balance.

MARINE DEBRIS
Traps set too close to reefs and marine debris, such as ghost traps, lost nets, monofilament, and lines, can damage coral reefs, which take a long time to recover.

FISHING SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS
Some species gather in large numbers at predictable times and locations to mate. Spawning aggregations are particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

FISHING TOO MANY BIG FISH
Large fish produce more young that are likely to survive to adulthood. Their absence means fish populations dwindle over time.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Educate yourself on local fishing rules and regulations. Your state fishery agency or bait and tackle shop can help you learn more.
- Make sustainable seafood choices. Learn more at www.FishWatch.gov.
- Only take what you need. Catch and release fish that you don't plan to eat.
- Be a responsible aquarium owner. Know where your fish come from and DO NOT release unwanted fish into the wild.

The Importance of Coral Reefs

Importance of Coral Reefs

- Home to many organisms and species of fish
- Fishery and nursery area- important economically
- Provides many people with income
- Provide a protective barrier from erosion to coastlines
- Provide information on changes in water quality (because Coral Reefs are very sensitive)
- Tourist attractions
- Control the amount of carbon dioxide in the water



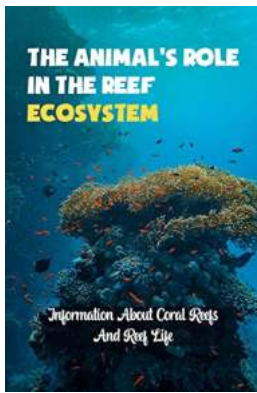
http://news-service.stanford.edu/news/2005/march30/gifs/reef_fish.jpg



Jewelry made from coral

<http://www.cst.cmich.edu/users/dietnry/zoo/gems/coral%20blackBeads.JPG>

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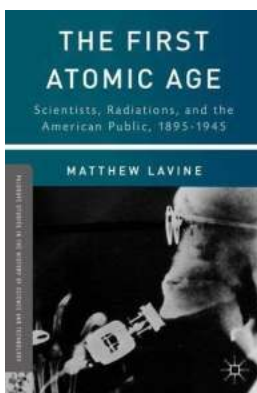
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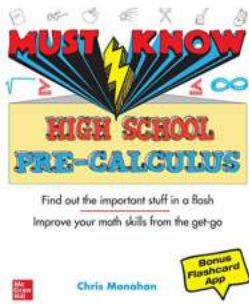


Are you looking to acquaint your little marine biologist with all types of ocean life with coral coloring pages? Here is our compilation that helps you teach your kid. This colorful short book provides children with a brief overview of what coral reefs are, where they are typically found and what kind of animals can be found there. Beautiful, detailed, colored photos along with age-appropriate descriptions and fun facts about corals, sea anemones, clownfish, sea urchins, and seahorses can all be found in this book.



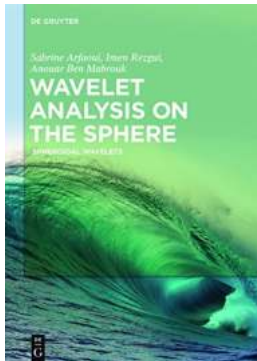
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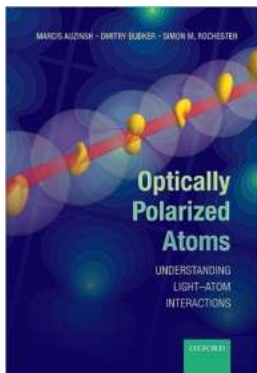
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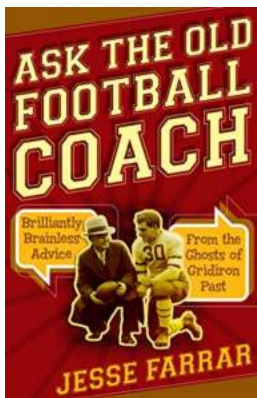
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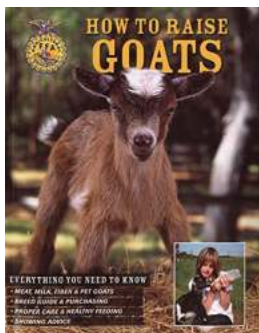
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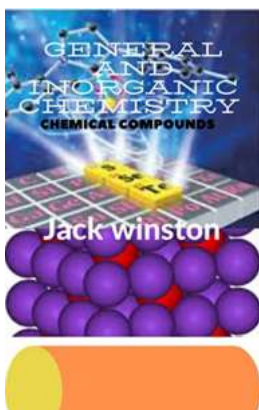
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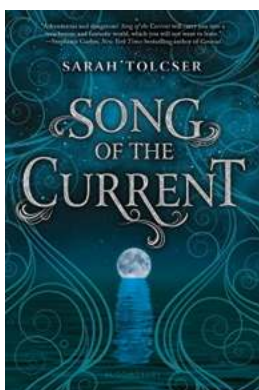
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