



# March Homeschool Day



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Our Animal ambassadors, Triton and Romeo, are going to help you learn all about corals, the threats they face, and how we can help them!

# Bubble Reef

A single coral is called a Polyp. One way coral reproduces is by releasing little coral larvae that float through the water and eventually settle on the ocean floor to grow and develop. Throughout this process there are predators and other factors that will keep the coral larvae from surviving.

In this activity, students will use bubbles to represent coral larvae and watch as they face predators and other harmful factors. After participating in the activity, answer the following questions.

1. When you blew the bubbles where did all the corals go?

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2. What happened to the coral if there were too many predators?

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3. What happened to the corals if there were no predators?

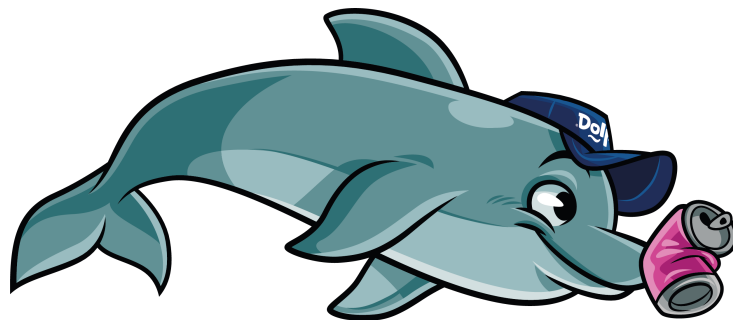
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4. What was the best place for the coral larvae to land and grow?

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# Reef Round-Up

Because of the diversity of life found in the habitats created by corals, reefs are often called the "rainforests of the sea." About 25% of the ocean's fish depend on healthy coral reefs. Fishes and other organisms shelter, find food, reproduce, and rear their young in the many nooks and crannies formed by corals.

While on the Sea to Shore Aquarium Tour, keep an eye out for the different animals that call coral reefs home! When you find one, write down which habitat they are in!

<p>Queen Angelfish</p> 	<p>French Angelfish</p> 	<p>Clownfish</p> 	<p>Blue Tang Surgeonfish</p> 
<p>Zebra Moray Eel</p> 	<p>Brittlestar</p> 	<p>Pajama Cardinalfish</p> 	<p>Yellow Tang</p> 

# Coral Legos

Coral reefs are some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Coral reefs protect coastlines from storms and erosion, provide jobs for local communities, and offer opportunities for recreation. Unfortunately, coral reef ecosystems are severely threatened. Some threats are natural, such as diseases, predators, and storms. Other threats are caused by people, including pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, and rising ocean temperatures which is causing ocean acidification.



Today you are going to create your own coral reef! First, you will need to sketch what you want your coral reef to look like. Next, you will build your coral reef. And finally, you will draw what types of animals you think would live there!

Sketch of my coral reef

Animals that live in my reef

# Animal Observations

Choose one animal at Marineland on which to do a physical and behavioral observation. You may pick any animal you'd like, but you must stick with that individual, so be sure you've identified a distinguishing characteristic about it that will help you keep it in view, even if it lives with a group of other animals that look just like it.

Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw your animal here:

List 5 physical characteristics/adaptations (body shape, coloration, number of limbs, etc):

What do these adaptations help the animal do? (Avoid predators, catch prey, camouflage, etc)



Observe your animal's behavior for three minutes. Fill out the following behavioral observation chart. Put a tally mark next to the behavior every time you see it. If you see any behaviors other than the ones listed, please add them in the blank space provided:

Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Behaviors Seen	Minute 1	Minute 2	Minute 3	Total Tallies
Eating				
Chasing				
Hiding				
Playing				
Breathing				
Sleeping				

What behavior did you see your animal do the most?

What kind of conclusions can you make from your observations? (Keep in mind that your three-minute observation does not represent a full day of the animal's life.)