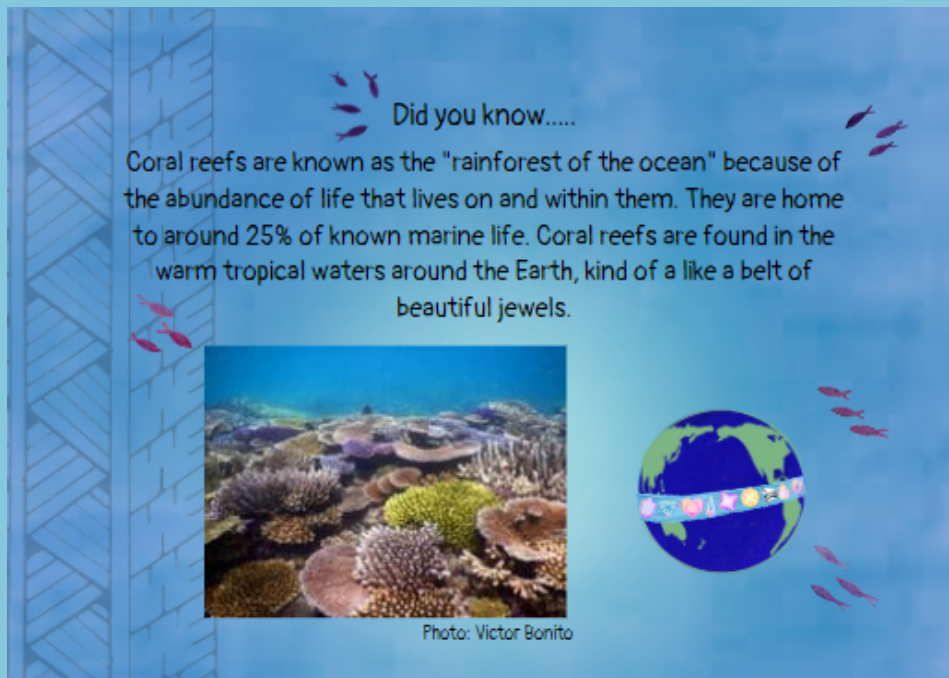


# Activity 2 - Coral Reefs



## Lesson Overview

Coral reefs are an incredible ecosystem. They are home to a huge diversity of marine life and are a source of income for many people. They are found mainly in the tropical waters in sunlight zone, as the algae that lives inside them require the sun for photosynthesis (more on this later). But recently scientists have found coral in the twilight zone near Tahiti.

There are so many wonderful resources out there, but here are a few activities to help students learn more about coral reefs and some of the different kinds of coral.

## Inquiry questions

You could ask these questions before you begin and then again at the end.

- What is coral?
- What are some different types of coral?
- Where is coral found?

## Ocean Literacy Principles



Watch this video to learn more about what Ocean Literacy is.



### Principle #5

The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

These activities connect to Principle 5. To learn more check out this website





# Activity - take a virtual dive to a coral reef & more

Take a virtual tour of a coral reef. 360 videos allow you to control the camera and look up, down and the to the sides.

SCAN ME

A 360 video of the great barrier reef









SCAN ME

Explore this 360 coral reef

Here are some video's to to watch to support the activity - scan to watch





There are so many exciting craft ideas that you do to help children understand more about the Ocean zones from poster on canva to dioramas to making the layers using playdough and so much more. Here are just 2 examples.



Make a 3D upcycled coral reef





INTERACT

Navigate the hidden treasures of a coral reef in the "Secrets of the Sea" online interactive.

Choose from 1 of 4 fun Coral Reef games

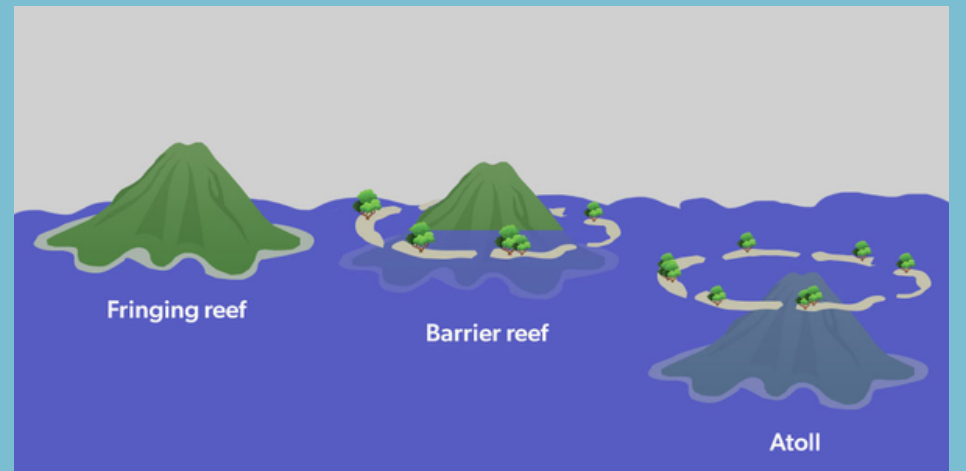






# Activity - Different types of coral reefs

Did you know there are 3 main types of coral reef. The difference is how they were formed. Watch these 2 videos find out more.



SCAN ME

This video explains in details the 3 main types of reef.



SCAN ME

This video is a more kid friendly.

# Activity - Different types of coral

Find out about the main different types of coral through some different activities. Have a look at a hands on activity by Encounter Edu that shows how different corals build a reef. Read an enjoyable comic and learn about the different types of coral at the same time.

An amazing interactive game about the reef



Download and read this cool coral comic

Read about the different types of coral on this great site.

What Are The Different Types Of Coral? Names And Pictures



This is just a fun video - diving on a reef from a turtles perspective



# Activity - Coral Eye spy

A very simple Coral identification chart of some of the main types of coral



## BRANCHING CORAL

For example staghorn coral

How to identify: they have numerous branches. Branches usually split off into secondary branches.



## DIGITATE CORAL

For example pillar coral

How to identify: they have a cylindrical shape that grows upwards



## TABLE CORAL

How to identify: they have a broad horizontal surface. They grow flat and wide to get more access to the light and water column



## ENCRUSTING CORAL

How to identify: they have are low spreading coral that grows closely onto rocks. They grow wide rather than high.



## BRAIN CORAL

How to identify: They get their common name from the grooves and channels on their surfaces that look like the folds of the human brain.



# Activity - Coral Eye spy

Have a look at these different coral reefs. Use the Coral identification chart to see if you can identify different types of coral.

