



Underwater Coral Farm • Study Guide

Jonathan visits an underwater farm in Key Largo where they grow coral! He joins the staff of Coral Restoration Foundation in helping to transplant and propagate staghorn coral, which has become threatened in the Florida keys.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to some of the techniques used in coral farming.
2. Illustrates how science can be used to save reefs.
3. Brings attention to coral reef issues.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is coral? Is it a plant or an animal?
2. Where does coral grow?
3. What are some threats to coral?
4. Why is coral important in tropical marine ecosystems?
5. What are some ways that farming coral might be worth the effort?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. What are some of the issues facing Staghorn coral in the keys?
2. How is coral at the farm propagated from one growth to a new one?
3. How is staghorn coral “planted” to form a new reef?
4. What is the purpose of growing staghorn coral on “trees”?
5. Why do you think there are so many fish around the farm?
6. Why does coral like staghorn grow in fairly shallow water? (You may need to do some internet research). How does that same shallow water make staghorn coral vulnerable?
7. Why do we roll backwards off the boat?