



Coral Reefs • Study Guide

This webisode was developed specifically for use in education to help teach curriculum-based ocean concepts. In this webisode, Jonathan investigates the basic biology and ecology of coral reefs.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the biology and ecology of coral reefs.
2. Explains how reefs are important to the tropical ocean ecosystem.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a reef? What is coral?
2. Is a coral reef alive, or dead?
3. What is “bleaching”?
4. How do reefs help

Discussion for after watching the program

1. How can coral (an animal) get much of its energy from the sun like a plant? Where does it get the rest of its energy?
2. How do reefs provide an important resource for fish in shallow tropical oceans?
3. What is a coral polyp? How do polyps form reefs?
4. Coral is often as hard as rock. Can anything eat coral?
5. Why is coral so hard?
6. What is bleaching? What are some things that are believed to cause it?
7. How do parrotfish make sand from coral?
8. What two factors are the reason coral reefs only grow in the tropics?
9. Internet research: Once corals are bleached, will they die or can they get their color back and survive to become healthy again?