



## Teacher's Notes: Great Barrier Reef

The students will be able to identify coral, Great Barrier Reef, Australia on a map

The students will be able to describe coral

The students will be able to define: pollution, coral, reef, colony

### Activities

1. Students do image searches. Have the students save pictures of their favorite ones. Those are then inserted onto a Word document or a PowerPoint. Students write a sentence about each picture. **See Technology printable in the materials.**
2. Watch Finding Nemo.
3. Coral Reef Sponge Painting [Coral Reef Art Project - Primary Theme Park](#)
4. Coral Reef Veggie Tray – create the "sand" from two blocks of cream cheese mixed with a packet of ranch dip mix. Stand carrots and snap peas on end and then cut celery several times lengthwise to make celery fans. Small sweet peppers became rocks and smooth coral. Broccoli and several colors of cauliflower became coral.

**General Tips:** The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on can be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students. There is something for everyone.

**Page 1:** Coral looks like plants, but they are animals. Coral eat tiny things in the ocean. They eat plankton and algae that floats around in the ocean. Coral are beautiful! They come in different colors. Coral lives in warm oceans. Have students view the time lapse video of coral. [Coral Reef Time lapse - YouTube](#)

**Point:** blue coral, yellow coral

**WH Questions:** What animal looks like a plant? Where do coral live?

**Yes/No:** Is coral a plant? Is coral an animal? Do coral live in warm oceans? Do coral live in cold oceans?

**Opinions/Experiences:** Have you ever seen coral? What color coral would you like to see?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 1, ask students, "What animal looks like a plant?" The answer is the main idea card "coral polyps." Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk to each other about coral in the book they like the most and why.

**Page 2:** Coral do not swim or walk. Coral live on rocks in the ocean. They stick to the rocks. Have students view the following video about coral. Pause periodically to point and discuss. [Coral Kingdom | What Sam Sees - YouTube](#)

**Point:** water, fish, coral

**WH Questions:** What are coral attached to?

**Yes/No:** Do coral swim? Do coral live on land? Do coral live in the ocean? Do coral attach to rocks?

**Opinions/Experiences:** Do you like jewelry? What color coral jewelry would you like?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 2, ask students, “What is used to make jewelry?” The answer is the main idea card “coral skeleton.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk about what color coral they think would make pretty jewelry.

**Page 3:**

**Point:** coral skeleton, coral necklaces

**WH Questions:** What is used to make jewelry? What do coral grow?

**Yes/No:** Do coral grow toes? Do coral grow skeletons? Is coral used to make jewelry?

**Opinions/Experiences:** Do you like jewelry? What color coral jewelry would you like?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 2, ask students, “What is used to make jewelry?” The answer is the main idea card “coral skeleton.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk about what color coral they think would make pretty jewelry.

**Page 4:** Coral are very tiny. Thousands of coral connect to each other. They live together in a colony.

**Point:** water, colonies of coral

**Questions:** What is a group of coral called?

**Yes/No:** Do coral live together? Are groups of coral called a town? Are groups of coral called a colony?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 4, ask students, “What are a group of coral called?” The answer is the main idea card “colony.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk to each other about what a colony of coral is called.

**Page 5:** Coral are tiny. They connect to each other in groups called colonies. When you see pictures of beautiful coral, you are looking at a colony of coral. Colonies of coral live in a reef. A lot of fish and sea turtles live in a reef. A reef is beautiful.

**Point:** fish, scuba diver, coral

**WH Questions:** Where do coral live? Where are reefs? What is a reef? Do dogs live in a reef? Do coral live in a reef?

**Yes/No:** Are reefs in the forest? Are reefs in the ocean? Do coral live in reefs?

**Sharing Opinion/Experiences:** Have you ever watched Finding Nemo? Nemo lived in a reef.

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 5, ask students, “Where do coral live?” The answer is the main idea card “reef.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk to each other about what lives in a reef? .

**Page 6:** There are a lot of coral reefs in the oceans. The biggest coral reef is called The Great Barrier Reef. The Great Barrier Reef is near Australia. Australia is far away from the United States. Nemo lived in The Great Barrier Reef. Have students view the following virtual tour of The Great Barrier Reef. [Great Barrier Reef – Virtual Feld Trip - YouTube](#) Have students view the following music video about The Great Barrier Reef. [THE GREAT BARRIER REEF OFFICIAL SONG - YouTube](#)

**Point:** The Great Barrier Reef on the map, the United States, scuba diver, coral, fish.

**WH Questions:** What is the largest reef called?

**Yes/No:** Is The Great Barrier Reef small? Is The Great Barrier Reef big?

**Opinion/Experiences:** A lot of people scuba dive in The Great Barrier Reef. Would you like to scuba dive in The Great Barrier Reef?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 7, ask students, “What is the biggest coral reef called?” The answer is the main idea card “The Great Barrier Reef.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk about The Great Barrier Reef.

**Page 7:** The Great Barrier Reef is in the Pacific Ocean. Have students view the following video [Check Out the Great Barrier Reef! - YouTube](#) and [TIME - YouTube Great Barrier Reef Official IMAX Trailer - YouTube](#)

**Point:** ocean, sky, clouds

**WH Questions:** What ocean is The Great Barrier Reef in?

**Yes/No:** Is The Great Barrier Reef in the Atlantic Ocean? Is The Great Barrier Reef in the Pacific Ocean? Is The Great Barrier Reef big?

**Opinion/Experiences:** Have you ever swam in the ocean? The Pacific Ocean is huge. The ocean near California is the Pacific Ocean.

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 7, ask students, “What ocean is The Great Barrier Reef in?” The answer is the main idea card “Pacific Ocean.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk about the Pacific Ocean.

**Page 8:** The Great Barrier Reef is in the Pacific Ocean near Australia. Australia is a continent that is far away from the United States. The Great Barrier Reef is huge! Many fish, coral, sea turtles and whales live in The Great Barrier Reef. Have students view the following video about The Great Barrier Reef. Pause periodically to point and discuss. [Great Barrier Reef Australia - Coral Reef Facts | Educational Videos by Mocomi Kids - YouTube](#)

**Point:** Australia, The Great Barrier Reef

**WH Questions:** What is The Great Barrier Reef near? What is Australia near?

**Yes/No:** Is The Great Barrier Reef near the United States? Is The Great Barrier Reef near Australia? Do a lot of sea creatures live in The Great Barrier Reef?

**Opinion/Experiences:** Would you like to scuba dive in The Great Barrier Reef?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 8, ask students, “What is The Great Barrier Reef near?” The answer is the main idea card “Australia” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 9:** Pollution is when the air, land or water gets dirty. Pollution is bad. The Great Barrier Reef has a problem with pollution. The reef is getting dirty with plastic bottles and bags. The plastic is bad for the plants and animals that live in The Great Barrier Reef. Have students view the following video showing how plastic pollution hurts coral. Pause periodically to point and discuss. [Coral Reefs Threatened by Plastic Pollution Need Our Help | Oceana - YouTube](#) Have students view the following video explaining

what would happen if the coral reefs disappeared. Pause periodically to point to discuss. [Billions Of Plastic Pieces Are Infecting Coral Reefs With Diseases, Study Shows | TIME - YouTube](#)

**Point:** water, plastic bottle, plastic bag, straw

**WH Questions:** What is killing The Great Barrier Reef? What do people need to stop putting in the ocean?

**Yes/No:** Is pollution good? Is pollution bad? Is pollution killing The Great Barrier Reef?

**Opinion/Experiences:** Where should people put garbage? Why do you think garbage and plastic is bad for The Great Barrier Reef?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 9, ask students, “What is killing The Great Barrier Reef?” The answer is the main idea card “pollution.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk to their partner about pollution and why it is bad.