



LIFE ON THE REEF

View our ocean world with the help of NASA images and our amazing digital globe. Then take a closer look at one special ocean habitat – the coral reef. In this multi-activity workshop pupils investigate the location of reefs, the coral animal itself and explores the relationship between species who make the reef their home.'



KS2



Science & Geography



40 Minutes

OVERVIEW & CURRICULUM LINKS

Science: Living things and their habitats, Animals, including humans, Evolution and inheritance

Geography: Locational knowledge, elements of physical geography.

OBJECTIVES

For the pupils to:

- Appreciate that there are many different ocean habitats including coral reefs
- Understand how corals are suited to their habitat (animal adaptation) and how their skeleton growth affects it
- Construct a food chain linking coral reef plants and animals and identifying producers, predators and prey

LEARNING SESSION CONTENT

INPUT (5-10 min)

The session begins with the Magic Planet. We use this revolving globe to illustrate our brief introduction to the world's oceans and their wide range of habitats. We then ask the pupils to look at one particular kind of ocean habitat – the coral reef.

ACTIVITIES (20-25 minutes)

What is this stuff called coral? Examine real coral skeletons and match them with our life-like replica corals. Use the coral polyp diagrams to find out more about the coral organism.

Amazing animals: Use our colourful and informative books to learn about the coral animal in its habitat – and its role as a reef-builder.

Who lives on the reef? Plants and animals need each other. Use the species cards to make up food chains, then work out which animals could not live around the reef – and why.

PLENARY (5-10 minutes)

We finish with feedback on our discoveries, including answers to: Is coral an animal or plant? What kind of habitat does it need? What is a coral reef? Who lives around the reef?