

# Science Story Adventures



## Coral Reefs

### Learning outcomes

» Students know examples of diverse life forms in different environments, such as oceans, deserts, tundra, forests, grasslands, and wetlands. (Life Sciences – Grade 3)

» Living organisms depend on one another and on their environment for survival. (Life Sciences – Grade 4)

*From: California's Science Content Standards*

### Books we read

*Life in Coral Reef* by Wendy Pfeffer

*Fish Wish* by Bob Barner

### Activities we did

» We looked at a map that showed where coral reefs are found around the world.

» We examined specimens of hard and soft corals and talked about the differences between them.

» We talked about the parts of coral polyp and made our own edible coral polyps from Build a Coral Polyp Lesson Plan <http://www.calacademy.org/teachers/resources/lessons/build-a-coral-polyp/>

### Today's craft: Coral Reef Diorama

#### You will need:

- |                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| » Paper plates               | » Blue thread  |
| » Construction paper         | » Sticky tape  |
| » Marine animal templates    | » Elmer's glue |
| » Scissors                   | » Pencils      |
| » Colored pencils or crayons | » Stapler      |



#### Directions:

1. Cut out a circle from the bottom of a paper plate using a scissor or craft knife (have an adult help you with this step).
2. Tape plastic wrap or a circle of hard plastic to the edges of the plate with the face facing upwards.
3. Cut out a circle of blue construction paper and glue it to the bottom of a second paper plate.
4. Make corals, fish, algae or other marine creatures out of the construction paper and/or find marine templates online to color.
6. Arrange your items how you want them, and then glue down those you are going to glue down.
7. You can also tape the thread to the backs of some of the marine animals. Tape the other end of the thread to the top edge of the paper plate so that they hang down as if they are swimming in the diorama.
8. Staple the top plate (the viewing hole) to the bottom plate.

*Adapted from <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/diorama/aquarium/>*

# Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

## Books

*At Home in the Coral Reef* by Katy Muzik. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL125 .M89 1992 (also available in Spanish: *Dentro del Arrecife de Coral* por Katy Muzik. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL125 .M8918 1993)

A baby coral is born into an active reef, which is threatened by pollution.

*Coral Reef* by Jane Burton and Barbara Taylor. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL125 .B87 1992

A Look Closer book with photos and facts about 14 different coral reef dwellers.

*Corals* by Carol K. Lindeen

Very simple text and bright photos describe coral anatomy.

*Corals: The Sea's Great Builders* by the Cousteau Society. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL377.C5 C68 1992

The detailed story of how coral grows and which creatures depend on it.

## DVDs

*Coral Sea Dreaming*. Nat. Ctr. Media QH197 .C67 1999  
An eye-candy style movie, which features short clips of coral reef critters in their undersea habitat.

*MacGillivray Freeman's Coral Reef Adventure*. Nat. Ctr. Media QH541.5.C7 C663 2004

Follows two real-life ocean explorers as they dive in coral reefs and talk to people that study, protect and depend on them.

## Websites

The Coral Reef Adventure Fun Zone

Games from the companion website to MacGillivray Freeman's Coral Reef Adventure.

<http://www.coralfilm.com/fun.html>

Coral Reef Animal Printouts

A make your own coral reef coloring book, with downloadable drawings and information.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/ocean/Coralreef.shtml>

National Geographic Coral Reefs Pictures

A slideshow with brief descriptions.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/photos/coral-reef/>

World Biomes: Coral Reefs

A short article on coral and coral games (including a crossword puzzle!).

<http://kids.nceas.ucsb.edu/biomes/coralreef.html>