

## Introduction

There are some animals that you may think are rocks. These animals are actually a form of life for a majority of the marine organisms, they are called coral. Coral can be home to more than a million species. Whether or not the coral reproduce depends on different factors, for instance weather, food, temperature, cleanliness, protection, and others.

The coral need thousands of years to grow a few centimeters, if they have the right conditions to live in. The corals are in danger because humans use bombs, nets, and others tools to fish. They kill the fish and other marine animals in the ocean that use the reef for their home.

The contamination of the water can also make coral die. As you read the rest of this book and find out more information, you will know why protecting the coral is important.

By: Bryan Holt

## Types of Corals

The corals are very small animals that transform into a strong structure that looks a rock. There are a lot of types of corals. There is one that looks like a huge brain and it is called the “Brain” coral. There are other species that are called are called the “Fan” coral, and it looks like a fan in real life.

There are corals that have a lot of colors because of the algae that live in them. Corals have different sizes and forms. They protect the beaches from big waves. Some corals are white because the algae that gives them color has died because of human contamination.

There is another type of coral that is called the “Finger” because it looks like a person’s finger. Some of them that I have mentioned above are big and beautiful; some of the corals are full of fish and other live organisms.

The corals form around the equator because they need warm and salty water to live. They cannot live in still water because of the plankton in the water. They eat it, and it has to move in the water. There are little animals that are called polyps that live in the corals; they eat plankton that move in the current of the water.

There are fish that eat the algae that live in the coral because if it grows over the corals they will suffocate and die. Please don’t contaminate the corals!

By: Keren Wallace

## Why the Coral Die

One of the reasons coral die is because of the storms. When a storm comes, the water and the waves rip and pull the corals and kills them.

When people swim underwater they kick the corals so they die, leaving the beach without protection. If you don't control your feet you can't swim. You can hurt these animals.

The corals are delicate animals because if you touch them nothing may happen, but if you put pressure on them, they can die and break, taking more time for the rest to grow back.

Corals are also very important because fish live in them, so if you kill a coral, you are killing fish and animals too. Don't kill corals because you are destroying the world.

In the ocean, corals are very important because they make sand so if you kill the corals there won't be sand and you are not going to enjoy the beach. There will only be water and I think that we want a beach to enjoy.

Coral in the water is something so beautiful because when you look underwater you see a new world. If you don't kill the coral everything will be better. Coral are so important to people, so don't kill the coral and make a better world.

By: Jennifer Fernandez

## Human's Impact on Coral

The principal reasons why humans ruin coral is because of the following:

The first reason is when we snorkel in shallow territory where there are coral, the fins can break them by hitting them and killing them.

The second reason is when we fish with nets they can get attached to it and when we pull it we finish breaking corals and killing them. We also kill the animals that live in them that are attached to the coral.

The third reason is when the boats throw anchors, this attaches to the corals and when the waves come it moves the boat and the anchor and the boat rips off the corals.

The fourth reason is when we step on corals without knowing it, we can kill them and so we need to be careful when we are at the beach if there are corals.

The fifth reason is when you touch them up you can kill them by pulling them off the sand and then when the waves bring them to the beach they convert into white sand.

The sixth reason is because of the trash that kills fish and especially the ones that eats the algae from the coral. If the corals have a lot of algae, they can die because the coral cannot have a lot of algae on them, other wise they will die and we are not going to have coral to protect us from big waves.

So please do not do the things I have mentioned to you.  
Help us save the corals!

By: Lucy Perez Jimenes

## Save the Corals

The coral are important because they stop the large waves from crashing into the sandy shore. The coral suffer because we throw trash into the water. When we throw trash into the water, the trash ends up getting into the river and traveling to the ocean, contaminating the water and killing the animals in that habitat. The fish eat the trash that we throw away causing the death of a lot of fish. The fish are coral cleaners, the fish clean the corals by eating the viruses. If the coral die, the fish die with them.

If a coral is touched, it will begin to die slowly and the wave will convert it to sand. We need to save the coral because they are indispensable, we need to preserve them for the good of millions of organisms.

Some fish are indispensable because they coexist with corals. Protecting the life of all of the fish prolongs the life of the earth. You are included in the answer, so we need to save the corals by not contaminating the earth.

You are saving yourself when you save the corals, so remember not to contaminate them.

By: Saúl Peña Placencia Duran Placencia

## Corals and Sand

When the corals die the waves drag them to the beach. When they take them to the beach, the corals break into pieces with the waves and rocks. That produces something called white sand. White sand is part of the beach that we like and that we enjoy because it is clean.

The corals are animals that live in the ocean and on the beaches, after they die they transform to sand. The corals are important for beaches and for us. In the ocean there are a lot of big waves that the wind provokes and if we don't have corals we wouldn't have a barrier of corals to stop them. The corals transform the big waves to smaller waves.

If you want to have white sand, made by corals or gray sand, made by rocks, don't do anything that could hurt the corals. In about a few years, if we continue to hurt corals, not very many people would go to the beach. We will only have rocks hitting the waves that the corals can't stop.

By: David Cabrera

## Coral Diseases

The corals are very delicate and get sick really fast for different reasons, like contamination, bad temperatures for them, and other reasons. I bet that you didn't know that most of the time the sickness is provoked by us humans, and they can't live without us looking out for them.

There are two types of coral diseases, White Band and Black Band Disease. You can distinguish the diseases when the corals that are affected are changing slowly in color. When you touch a sick coral and you do the same thing with a healthy one, you can finish contaminating the healthy one. You have to be careful with the corals that you touch, and if it is not necessary, please don't touch it.

A way to take care of the corals so they don't get sick is to not contaminate the ocean. The contamination of the ocean causes the diseases that the corals are affected by. The disease can be dangerous for the corals. If the coral has a color like dark red it is because that part of the coral is dead.

The White Band and Black Band Disease have the same potential to contaminate a coral and kill the coral. The one that most easily can contaminate the coral is the Black Band Disease. If the coral gets sick that coral can contaminate all of the corals around them.

Do not be responsible for the coral diseases, stop contaminating please!

By: Santiago Genao Abreu

## What Coral Need to Survive

The coral need a lot of elements so they can survive. I am going to tell you about those elements now. Coral have some animals inside of them called Polyps. They form the structure of the coral. When the waves rise, the waves bring some animals called isopodous. The isopodous cannot swim against the currents, and that is why they cannot swim against the waves. The polyps go outside the coral and they eat the isopodous, and this way the coral can eat them when they are hungry.

Another things specific to the coral is the exact temperature. They cannot live in very cold water or very hot water. The temperature that they need is about 34 to 35 degrees Celsius. If the temperature goes up or down a lot, it would be bad because they could die quickly. The zones of the ocean where they live needs to have a good temperature so they can survive.

That is not the only thing that the coral need, the majority of them are dying because people contaminate the water. Coral need water, free from trash and we need to take care of all types of corals.

We need to take care of all the coral that exists in the world. They need clean, salty water and a lot of fish to live and give life to the ocean.

By: Massiel Rivas Ovalles

## How We Benefit from Coral

The coral help us in different ways, although some people waste the work these animals do because they don't know how hard they work to do it. The coral are formed from small organisms. When we step on the coral, they die and are broken by the waves. They become sand, the sand that we like to step on when we go to the beach and that makes us feel like we are in a wonderful place.

Another benefit that they give us is that they protect us from the big waves that threaten to leave the beach underwater. The corals form a barrier and that makes the waves become smaller before they get to the beach.

Another function of corals that is a benefit is that the corals take care of marine animals like: urchins, fish and others. When the corals start forming, they leave small holes that later on are inhabited by fish and small animals.

We use these fish for food. People who don't have another way to get food take advantage of the abundance of fish by fishing commercially. They need to fish in order to survive and support their family in an economic way.

Please help save the coral!

By: Karina Rivera R.

## Corals and Polyps

The corals are animals not plants that help the environment, because when the waves come the corals break them so that they don't become very strong. The corals have an animal called polyp. This animal comes out at night and eats plankton in the water.

The coral have algae that give them their color and the algae could kill them or not let them breathe. The polyps don't eat all the algae and that's why they can die. There is a fish called a Parrot Fish and this fish eats the algae from the coral, and helps the coral. Sometimes people go to a restaurant and eat this fish, but they shouldn't eat it because if this fish disappears then it will affect the corals in a negative way.

The polyps form the corals and the fish live inside and they help the corals to kill the algae sometimes. You should help to not contaminate the water that is in the river because it can destroy the corals. The corals grow 1 inch per month, so please don't break the corals because they grow so slow.

By: Adriano Rodriguez

## The Reproduction of Coral

The coral can reproduce in two different ways. One way, is when the male coral releases sperm and the female releases eggs into the water to fertilize large areas of the ocean. Then, eggs hatch as larvae that later will settle on the ocean floor to become new coral.

You can know the type of coral that are created from the male and female coral. The coral that is created is the same as the parents. For example, if the male and female are Fire Coral then the parent's egg will be a Fire Coral.

The other way that coral can reproduce is when by natural or human reasons, pieces of coral break off from the main coral. If pieces fall to the ocean floor they can grow into new coral and they become a whole new colony. If coral are healthy they are beneficial to us because they help to prevent big waves that could destroy the beaches. If the beaches were ruined, we couldn't swim in them.

We need to take care of the coral because we will not have anymore coral or beautiful ocean animals under the ocean if we don't.  
**HELP ME SAVE THE CORAL REEF!**

By: Arlette Collado

## Trash and Corals

Corals are little animals that live in warm salty water. They're only found in the Caribbean Ocean near the Equator. The trash affects the coral to a point that causes them to die. You will ask yourselves, how can this be true? Now I will explain, so read carefully.

When corals are surrounded by trash their habitat changes, their food gets contaminated, the water gets dirty, they lose oxygen and die. I hope this is clear! Don't ask yourselves what do you have to do with this? Trash doesn't get to the ocean by causality, it comes because you don't throw it in an adequate place.

The corals are dying for the cause you have just read. When people go to the beach, for no reason, most of the times they forget and leave their trash thrown on the sand. Then, when the waves come in, they take the trash to the sea. Do I have to tell you what to do, or do you understand?

By: Darina Herrera

## Sedimentation

Sedimentation is the process by which the solid material transported by the current of water is deposited into the bottom of the ocean.

The tide water is turning black because the accumulation of sand and trash that comes from the rivers and from us humans. When the trash and waste dissolves inside of the water, the sand accumulates and is moved by the current, eventually being converted into sediment.

When the sedimentation covers the corals, the sunlight cannot pass through effectively and the corals can't have their food through the process of photosynthesis. Photosynthesis requires sunlight. The sediment also can kill the corals because they do not have enough oxygen.

We should not contribute to the sedimentation of the water by throwing our trash in the water, because every time we do, more corals die. If we have less coral, we will have less sand and fish. We need to take care of the coral in order to preserve an important necessity.

By: Luis Jose

## Where are the Coral Found?

The coral are animals that look like rocks and are found in warm, shallow places like the Caribbean. The coral are organisms that are very sensitive to the cold water and they need enough sunlight to survive. These structures take a lot of time to form. They can't live in deep places, because it is hard for them to get food and sunlight to make photosynthesis from the algae that live inside of them and give them color.

In places like Spain, Portugal, France and England, there are not very many coral because those places are very cold for the coral. Around the equator a lot of colors of coral exist because there is warm water.

Small animals live inside the coral and fish like the Parrot Fish control the growth of the algae on the coral.

In some places the coral need to live in moving water in order to get food called plankton, the algae that the coral eat. Coral needs to be on the bottom of the ocean, holding onto the sand and rocks in order to not be moved by the waves.

By: Joel Roque

## Pollution and Corals

The contamination of corals is one of the reasons for the disappearance of the marine world. The contamination of the world has caused the pollution of the corals.

Corals are more than helpers for our planet, they protect all of the countries surrounded by oceans where the waves could destroy the land. If we contaminate the ocean the reefs are going to die and we will not be protected by the corals.

Did you know that we don't only contaminate the corals, but the water too? All the trash that we throw onto the ground will be taken by the rain and end up in the ocean. Our trash is the main cause of the coral's death. I know that you might not consider that if they disappear then we will disappear. The ocean and the waves will start to cover the beach if the corals disappear.

Let's take care of the corals. We have to protect the environment that surrounds us by protecting the river, the ocean and all of the coral.

By: Marines Hernandez

## Conclusion

The coral need warm and clean water as well as different kinds of fish in order to live.

Everything that you have read is happening now. We are not talking about the future. If we keep doing bad things to the environment, it will pollute the coral and they will die. In the future, coral and a part of us will not exist.

This information was all that we wanted to share. Save the corals and help us take care of them!

By: Bryan Holt