

Reef builders



Age 7-11



60 minutes

Curriculum links

- Study the ocean as a comparative habitat
- Learn how ecosystems are made up of a variety of living things

Resources



Slideshow 2:
Reef builders



Student Sheet 2a:
Coral life templates

Student Sheet 2b:
Coral life checklist

Student Sheet 2c:
Dive log



Activity:
Coral reef in a box

Activity:
Coral reef mural



Gallery:
Coral life



360 Gallery:
Preserved Oceans



Subject Update:
How to: Use Google Expeditions

Subject Update:
How to: Use Encounter 360

Lesson overview

For teachers wishing to bring a hands-on and creative element to the unit, this lesson provides the template for building a reef in your classroom and can act as the basis for future lessons. Rather than a traditional lesson, these resources describe two possible ways of making your own reef in the classroom: reef-in-a-box and a reef mural. Depending on the time, you have available, you can either use one or both of these approaches over the course of the unit.

Lesson steps

1. Reef builders (10 minutes)

The real reef builder is the coral polyp that grows and forms the three-dimensional structure of the reef. Students will watch and reflect on the video Wonders of coral.

2. Our amazing ocean (10 minutes)

Students undertake making either a reef-in-a-box or reef mural. The timing of this activity can be extended or teaching staff can assist by prepping some of the background work.

3. Dive log (10 minutes)

Students reflect on their experiences of building their own reef by completing their dive logs.

Learning outcomes

- Describe how the tiny coral animal makes the reef
- Identify a range of living things that have their home in the coral habitat
- Produce an artistic version of the coral habitat
- Reflect on the diversity of life on the coral reef

Step Guidance

Resources

1
10
mins



Step 1 introduces students to the amazing prowess of the coral polyp, the tiny animal that builds up the amazing reef structure. A range of 360 imagery is then used to inspire students before they create their own artistic versions of the coral reef habitat.

- Use the slides to review the learning objectives with students.
- Use the slides to demonstrate how the coral polyp creates the coral reef habitat.
- Take students on a tour of some of the most famous reefs in the world, with a 360 gallery of coral habitats protected by UNESCO.
- These 360 images can be used as continuing inspiration for students during the creative stage of the lesson. Students can use mobile or tablet devices to view these.

Slideshow 2:
Slides 1-8

360 Gallery:
Preseved Oceans

Subject Update:
How to: Use Encounter Edu 360 galleries

Subject Update:
How to: Use Google Expeditions

2
40
mins



Step 2 sees students undertake making either a Coral reef mural or Coral reef in a box. The timing of this activity can be extended, or teaching staff can assist by prepping some of the background work.

- Review the instructions on the relevant Activity page with students. The slideshow can be used as a prompt for this
- Hand out all relevant materials listed for the chosen Activity as well as the Student Sheets 2a and 2b to each group.
- Students can use the 360 gallery from the previous lesson step as well as the Coral life gallery to provide further inspiration for their creations.

Slideshow 2:
Slides 9-10

Student Sheet 2a:
Coral reef templates

Student Sheet 2b:
Coral reef checklist

Activity:
Coral reef mural

Activity:
Coral reef in a box

Gallery:
Coral life

3
10
mins



Step 3 uses the format of a dive log for students to reflect on their learning.

- Hand out copies of the dive log to each student and use the questions on the slideshow to guide their reflection.
- These questions can be adapted to the ability of your class.
- Consider conducting a plenary discussion focused on students favourite living thing on the reef.

Slideshow 2:
Slide 11

Student Sheet 2c:
Dive log