

Coral futures dominos



Coral bleaching

The level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is increasing. This contributes to ocean warming which can harm corals.

Good coral living

Individuals and communities ask governments to balance the need of the coral reef with economic development. This could include making more marine parks.

Overfishing

Large fish such as shark, snapper and grouper are being overfished. This is not only a problem for these fishes, but the lack of big predators also harms all the life on the coral reef.

Good coral living

Individuals work to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. This can include cycling and walking more or eating a vegetable-based diet.

Soil run-off

Farming methods, including cutting down trees and creating more dirt, mean that more soil is being washed out to sea. This soil can smother the coral reef.

Good coral living

Governments take action to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere by increasing investment in solar and wind power.

Sewage run-off

Both sewage and fertiliser from farms washes into the ocean. This helps algae grow faster, which can lead to the coral reef becoming overgrown.

Good coral living

Scientists and NGOs work with local communities to show them how to fish in more sustainable ways that protect and increase fish stocks.



STUDENT SHEET 7a

Ocean acidification

Carbon dioxide absorbed by the ocean is affecting its acidity. This process, known as ocean acidification, can affect the ability of corals to grow their hard structures.

Good coral living

People learn how to dive responsibly and only use tourism operators who practise 'reef-safe' travel. Governments can also protect areas of reef of special value.

Destructive fishing

Some local fishermen are resorting to dynamite and cyanide fishing to catch enough fish to support their families. This damages the coral as well.

Good coral living

Individuals choose to eat seafood that is caught in a sustainable way and not to eat overfished species such as shark.

Habitat destruction

Increasing levels of development on the coast (housing, industry, ports and tourism) can add sewage to the ocean and also require areas of the reef to be destroyed.

Good coral living

Scientists and government work with farmers to make sure that soil doesn't get washed into the ocean during heavy rain. This can include planting more trees in coastal areas.

Tourism

Some tourist practices can be harmful to the reef. Divers and boat anchors can break the coral.

Good coral living

Government work with farmers to make sure that less fertiliser enters the ocean; and also make sure that towns and cities don't put raw sewage in the ocean.

