



Grades 6-8
Vocabulary: Corals

Atoll - A ring of coral reefs that surround a lagoon.

Barrier Reef - An offshore reef separated from land by a channel of water.

Biodiversity - A diverse number of species.

Cnidaria - The Phylum that includes jellyfish, sea anemones, and corals.

Colonial Organism - An organism made up of many individuals united to make a whole or colony (example: coral).

Coral Bleaching - When coral whitens due to the loss of its symbiotic algae and their pigments.

Fringing Reef - A reef that borders shorelines of continents and Islands.

Habitat - The area or environment in which an organism lives.

Mutualism - A symbiotic relationship where both organisms benefit.

Nematocysts - Stinging cells.

Photosynthesis - The process by which plants and algae use the energy of the sun to produce food from water and carbon dioxide.

Polyp - The coral animal, consisting of a cylinder-shaped body with a single opening leading to a stomach, and surrounded by stinging tentacles.

Soft Corals - Corals that produce a soft body supported by calcium "needles."

Symbiosis - A relationship in which two organisms live in close association with one another.

True (Stony) Corals - Corals that produce a hard calcium carbonate shell around the polyp. The reef building corals.