

REEFER MADDNESS

1. Where can we find coral reefs?
2. What is the bad news concerning the reefs?
3. Why are reefs considered the rainforests of the sea?
4. Which countries are included in the Mesoamerican Reef shown in this video?
5. Is coral a plant or an animal?
6. What are some of the biggest threats to coral reefs?
7. What is coral bleaching?
8. How is the ocean becoming more acidic?
9. Why are mangroves important for reef preservation?
10. How do tourists impact reefs?
11. What medicinal uses have been found in reefs?
12. How can people help stop the destruction of the reefs?
13. Why are the deep-water corals becoming endangered?
14. How are lionfish damaging the reefs?
15. What can you do to help preserve coral reefs?

REEFER MADDNESS

1. Where can we find coral reefs?
 - Caribbean, all over the ocean world
2. What is the bad news concerning the reefs?
 - They are dying
3. Why are reefs considered the rainforests of the sea?
 - They contain 25% of marine species and maintain the biodiversity of the ocean
4. Which countries are included in the Mesoamerican Reef shown in this video?
 - Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras
5. Is coral a plant or an animal?
 - Coral is an animal with a plant living inside of it (Animal/Plant Symbiosis)
6. What are some of the biggest threats to coral reefs?
 - Climate change; more tropical storms, hurricanes and stronger/more harsh
7. What is coral bleaching?
 - When the coral turns white because the water is too warm
8. How does the ocean becoming more acidic?
 - Humans releasing too much carbon into the atmosphere and the ocean (increase in CO₂ absorption)
9. Why are mangroves important to reef preservation?
 - They act as a water filter, sediment blockage and habitat for small fish
10. How do tourists impact reefs?
 - They create garbage, too many divers creating disturbances, over fishing
11. What medicinal uses have been found in reefs?
 - Anti-cancer, kidney, HIV treatment
12. How can people help stop the destruction of the reefs?
 - Marine reef reserve, fishing regulations, educating scuba divers and fisherman
13. Why are the deep-water corals becoming endangered?
 - bottom trawling by fishermen
14. How are lionfish damaging the reefs?
 - No predators (invasive species) and they eat a lot of reef fish
15. What can you do to help preserve coral reefs?
 - Reduce your carbon footprint, eat sustainable seafood, promote marine reserve

REEFER MADDNESS

Coral Identification

1. Students will be assigned a type of coral
2. Students are to research about what it looks like
3. They will then construct/create a 3D version of it using any art material they prefer
4. They will then present these physical details to the class

Several Related Activities

<http://coralreef.noaa.gov/education/educators/resourcecd/activities/>

<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/education/crbook.pdf>

<http://warrensburg.k12.mo.us/coral/coral.html>

<http://www.treehugger.com/culture/valerie-buess-books-recycled-books-paper-sculptures.html>

This link describes and identifies the physical structure of Corals - i.e. learning about the biodiversity of corals. This is an excellent activity, because students need to learn to pay attention to details and be able to articulate them clearly.