Glossary

ahermatype – soft corals and a few hard corals that do not build reefs.
algae – simple, chiefly aquatic plants, such as seaweed and kelp.
anemone – a marine invertebrate related to corals and jellyfish.
anthropogenic – human-caused changes.
atoll – a ring-shaped series of small coral islands that enclose a central lagoon.
barrier reef – a long narrow ridge of coral parallel to the coastline but separated from it by a lagoon.
budding – a form of asexual reproduction where a new cell is formed from the parent cell.
calcium carbonate – a white chemical compound which occurs naturally as chalk and limestone. This is the material which forms coral skeletons.
camouflage – the act or means of disguising something to deceive a predator.
carnivore – an animal that eats other animals.
cnidarian – members of the phyla Cnidaria which are characterized by a body that only opens at one end, such as corals, jellyfish, and anemones.
colony – a connected, interrelated group of hard coral polyps.
conservation – preservation from loss.
coral – colonial marine animals characterized by limestone skeletons, often forming reefs or islands.
coralline algae – type of red seaweed that encrusts itself with lime which helps to cement the dead coral rock together.
coral bleaching – loss of color by corals which occurs when the corals are stressed and expel their endosymbionts.
coral reef – a stony marine structure formed from joined skeletons of corals cemented together by algae and other organisms.
crepuscular – term used to describe animals that become active at dawn and/or dusk.
crustacean – usually a marine animal that has a hard shell.
decomposition – the process of breaking down into smaller elements; decaying.
diurnal – term used to describe animals that become active during the day.
diurnal – term used to describe animals that become active during the day.
ecosystem – all of the plants and animals in a community along with the non-living environment.
ecology – the study of the interactions of plants and animals with their environment.
endangered species – a species in danger of extinction.
endosymbionts – refer to zooxanthellae.
environment – everything surrounding an organism.
equator – an imaginary line circumscribing the Earth’s surface, dividing the Earth into Northern and Southern hemispheres.
equator – an imaginary line circumscribing the Earth’s surface, dividing the Earth into Northern and Southern hemispheres.
extinct – no longer in existence.
fringing reef – a coral reef that forms adjacent to the shoreline that does not have a lagoon.
food chain – a linear pattern of nutrient and energy transfer among organisms in an ecosystem.
great barrier reef – the largest living organism in the world, stretching over 1,240 miles off the eastern coast of Australia and visible from outer space.
hard corals – reef-building corals that secrete external limestone skeletons and typically have tentacles in multiples of six.
herbivore – an animal that eats plants.
hermaphroditic – containing both male and female sex cells.
hermatypic – hard corals that build reefs.
invertebrate – animal without a backbone.
lagoon – a body of shallow water separated from the open sea by a barrier, such as a reef.
mangroves – tropical trees that grow in the transitional zone between land and sea; some mangroves have roots that grow above the ground.
mariculture – the farming of marine plants and animals.
mesenterial filaments – long tubular structures which the coral polyp extends to defend itself from attack.
nematocyst – stinging organ found in corals, jelly-
fish, anemones, and other related organisms, which, when stimulated, ejects a harpoon-like structure that chemically paralyzes the victim.

**nocturnal** – term used to describe animals that become active during the night.

**nudibranch** – a marine organism also called a sea slug or marine snail.

**octocorals** – coral polyps that typically have eight tentacles and secrete flexible skeletons; also called soft corals.

**omnivore** – an animal that eats both plants and animals.

**patch reef** – an island of coral usually found growing on the floor of a lagoon.

**photosynthesis** – process by which the zooxanthellae use sunlight to convert the carbon dioxide and water in the polyp tissue into oxygen and carbohydrates.

**phytoplankton** – tiny floating or drifting aquatic plants.

**plankton** – tiny floating or drifting aquatic plants or animals.

**planula** – free-swimming coral larva.

**pollution** – that which makes something foul or unclean.

**polyp** – the tiny cylindrical body of a coral animal which has a mouth opening surrounded by tentacles.

**population** – all the members of a species that live in the same area and make up a breeding group.

**predation** – a relation between animals in which one captures and feeds on others.

**primary consumer** – organisms that get their nutrients from primary producers; typically herbivores that get their nutrients by eating plants.

**primary producer** – organisms capable of producing their own food, typically through photosynthesis, using light as an energy source.

**propagules** – specialized seed pods that grow on the end of mangrove roots which drop down from the canopy of the tree.

**protection** – the act of defending or guarding from attack.

**reef crest** – the highest and shallowest part of the reef.

**reef face** – the seaward facing slope of the reef.

**seagrass** – simple aquatic plants that grow on the sandy floor of the lagoon.

**secondary consumer** – organisms that typically obtain their nutrients by eating primary consumers; typically carnivores that get their nutrients by eating herbivores.

**sediment** – fine particles of solid matter suspended in water or settling to the bottom of it.

**soft coral** – coral polyps that secrete flexible skeletons; also called octocorals.

**spawning** – a form of sexual reproduction where eggs and sperm are released, usually in water.

**species** – a group of organisms that look alike and are capable of producing fertile offspring.

**sustainable** – use that minimizes negative impacts on the ecosystem or environment while maintaining its contribution to society.

**symbiotic** – mutually beneficial relationship between two different species.

**synergistic** – working together.

**tentacles** – flexible, unsegmented feelers used for feeding, touching, and smelling.

**tetraodontoxin** – a powerful poison in some fish which can cause serious illness and even death if ingested.

**tropics** – region of the Earth’s surface lying between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn (23 degrees, 27 minutes north and south of the equator).

**vertebrate** – an animal with a backbone.

**zooxanthellae** – one-celled algae that live inside the tissue of various animals, such as hard coral polyps, and produce photosynthetic products that the host can use.

**zooplankton** – tiny floating or drifting aquatic animals.
Bibliography


*Coral and Coral Reefs*. Sea World Education Department, 1992.

*Coral Reefs*. Greenpeace Fact Sheet.


References for Students

BOOKS

The publications listed below provide excellent resource material on coral reef ecosystems. See the following section for educational materials that are available through the REEF RELIEF mail order service.


Tate, Suzanne. *Mary Manatee: A Tale of Sea Cows, and Tammy Turtle: A Tale of Saving Sea Turtles*. Nags Head Art, P.O. Box 88, Nags Head, NC 27959 (tel: 919-441-7480).


PUZZLES AND STAMPS

*Life In the Coral Reefs*. New York: Judy/Instructo, Simon & Shuster. 50 piece floor puzzle.


*Ocean World Puzzle*. Hope, Arkansas: Fink & Co./EDUCA. 100 large size pieces with an illustrated guide to identify marine life.

VIDEOS, SLIDES AND CD-ROMS


Educational Merchandise

The following lists books, children’s books, videos, cassettes, CD-ROMs and other educational merchandise that is available through Reef Relief. To order, please see the order form at the end of this section.

**BOOKS**

**A Guide to Angelfishes & Butterflyfishes.** Text and Photographs by Gerald R. Allen, Roger Steen and Mark Allen. Hardcover. $29.95

**A Guide to Underwater Florida.** Ned DeLoach. Maps and directions for 600 of Florida’s best ocean and spring dives. 352 pp. $18.95

**Anemone Fishes and their Host sea Anemones.** Photos and text by Daphne G. Fautin & Gerald R. Allen 159 pp. $29.95

**Blue Frontier, Saving America’s Living Seas.** A comprehensive look at ocean politics in America. David Helvarg. Paperback 299 pp. $15.00 Hardcover $25.95

**Cetacea.** Theresa Foley. An Eco-Thriller based in the Florida Keys. Paperback 220 pp. $11.95

**Collaborative and Community-based management of Coral Reefs.** Edited by White, Hale, Renard and Cortesi. Case studies of how various worldwide communities have worked to protect their coral reefs. Includes a chapter on REEF RELIEF. Paperback. 130 pp. $22.00

**Deep Cuba, the Inside Story of an American Oceanographic Expedition.** Bill Bellville A captivating look at what an expedition involves. 272 pp. $27.95

**Diving and Snorkeling in the Florida Keys.** John Halas, Judy Halas, and Don Kincaid. A handy photo-packed reference of more than 36 diving and snorkeling areas along the Florida Keys. Paperback. $12.95

**Eye Of the Albatross, Visions of Hope and Survival.** Carl Safina. A stunning epic about seabirds. Hardcover. 376 pp. $27.50

**Everglades.** Edited by Susan Cerulan. Hardcover. 256 pp. $18.95


**Fort Jefferson and the Dry Tortugas National Park.** L. Wayne Landrum Produced by the former park manager. Images and text. Hardcover. 71 pp. $19.95

**Kayaking in the Keys.** Kathleen Patton. Well written by a local resident. Hardcover. 190 pp. $199.95

**Manatees and Dugongs of the World.** Jeff Ripple. Photographs Doug Perrine. 131 pp. $19.95


**Marine Plants of the Caribbean.** Mark and Diane Littler, Bucher, and Norris. A field guide from Florida to Brazil—the best book to identify algae on the reef. Paperback with 225 color plates, 263 pp. $25.00.

**Marine Reserves, a Guide to Science, Design, and Use.** Jack Sobel and Craig Dahlgren 369 pp. $70.00

**Peterson’s Guide to Coral Reefs.** Eugene Kaplan. Paperback, 256 pp. $17.00


**Peterson’s Guide to Atlantic Sea Shores.** Kenneth L. Gosner. Paperback with 329 pp. $16.95


**Protecting Paradise.** Peggy Cavanaugh and Margit Spontak. Features 300 ways to protect Florida’s environment. Paperback with 475 color plates, pp. $39.95

**Reef Creature Identification.** Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach. The definitive reference on marinelife. Paperback with 475 color plates, 344 pp. $35.00


**Reef Fish Identification.** Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach. The definitive reference on reef fish. Paperback with 345 color plates, 288 pp. $30.00
**Reef Fish.** Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach. In-A-Pocket waterproof companion to Reef Creature and Coral Identification for Divers and Snorkelers. 4 3/4" X 6" 23 pp. $11.92

**Reef Set.** Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach. Set of three hard cover books and a shelf case featuring the three definitive resources to identify reef life: Reef Coral Identification of Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas; Reef Creature Identification of Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas; and Reef Fish Identification of Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas. $120.00

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**Snorkeling Guide To Marine Life.** Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach. Paperback with 250 color plates, 80 pp. $13.00

**The Florida Keys: The Natural Wonders of an Island Paradise.** Jeff Ripple with photos by Bill Keogh and Jeff Ripple. Explore the islands from their formation to the impact of humans on the Keys today. Paperback. 128 pp. $19.95

**The Everglades, Florida Bay, and Coral Reefs, an Ecosystem Sourcebook.** Edited by James Porter and Karen Porter. A comprehensive college level resource with papers by leading researchers, managers and ecologists. 1,000 pp. $125.00

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**Angel Fish.** Lian Smith. A pull and lift book. Hardcover. $10.95

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**Baru Bay:** Australia. Bob Weir and Wendy Weir. A beautifully illustrated tale for children about a young girl on her first visit to a coral reef in Australia and her encounter with Aboriginal people, dolphins, and many sea creatures. An audio cassette features Bob Weir of the Grateful dead narrating the story, with original music inspired by aboriginal musicians. Hardcover. 40 pp. with cassette tape $20.00

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**Oozy Octopus.** Susan Tate. Illustrations, James Melvin. A tale of a clever critter. 26 pp. $4.94

**Peterson’s Field Guide Coloring Book: Fishes.** Sarah Landry. With descriptions of each fish and small color illustrations to serve as a guide for color. Paperback. 64 pp. $5.95
Resources

Rosie Ray. Suzanne Tate. Illustrations James Melvin. A tale of watery wings. 12 pp. $4.95

Secrets Of The Deep Revealed. Dr. Frances Dipper. 34 pp. $12.99

Shockers of the Sea. Caroline Arnold, Illustrations by Crista Forest. 28 pp. $6.95

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The Rainbow Fish. Marcus Pfister. Award winning, simple story about the joy of sharing. Hardcover. $18.95

The Reef Relief Book of Coral Reef Fish. Bill Alevizon, Ph.D., Illustrations, Ruth Rasche. An excellent learning and coloring book for classroom use, K-3. 22pp. $5.00

Underwater Alphabet Book. Jerry Pallotta. Illustrations, Edgar Stewart. 28 pp. $6.95

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Baru Bay: Australia. Bob Weir and Wendy Weir (our very own REEF RELIEF board members!). A beautifully illustrated children’s book about a young girl on her visit to a coral reef in Australia where she encounters the many life-forms that live on and around the reef - a rainforest, Aboriginal people, and crocodiles on land, as well as bright blue sea stars, reef animals, and dolphins in the water. The book features an illustration key with animal names and a glossary. The audio cassette tape features Bob Weir of the Grateful Dead narrating the story with original music that he produced inspired by the ocean and aboriginal musicians. Excellent for use in the classroom and with the Coral Reef Teacher’s Guide. Hardcover, 40pp. with cassette tape. $ 20.00

Old Turtle audio cassette. Engaging stories and lyrical songs. Sing along with author/composer Douglas Wood and his friends as they celebrate Old Turtle’s message. $11.95

VIDEOS

Canary of the Ocean: America’s Troubled Reef. Miranda Smith Productions. 56 minute video that portrays the stunning beauty of America’s fragile undersea kingdom, investigates the serious threats to its health, and profiles some of the concerned people, including REEF RELIEF representatives, working to preserve it for future generations. $35.00

Coral Reefs: Rainforests of the Sea. Oceanic Research Group in association with The Video Project. 20 minute video with study guide, 1996. Created especially for middle and high school age, it provides an excellent introduction to the science, ecology, and importance of coral reefs, as well as an overview of the serious environmental problems confronting them. Utilizing underwater footage shot on reefs worldwide, the video describes how reefs are formed, where they can be found, their importance to oceans and the human community, and the major natural and human-caused threats they face. $35.00

Seascapes III: The Incredible Coral Reef. Tom Jackson (former REEF RELIEF Board Member), narrated by Fisher Stevens. A 30 minute video describing hard and soft corals, fish and other sealife found at the coral reefs of the Florida Keys and Bahamas. $20.00

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Washington, D.C. 20036

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Washington, DC 20009

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Vienna, VA 22183-1618

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Washington, DC 20036

Izaak Walton League of America
1401 Wilson Blvd, Level B
Arlington, VA 22209

National Resources Defense Council
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New York, NY 10011

Oceana
2501 M Street NW Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20037-1311

Surfrider USA
122 S. El Camino Real, Ste. 67
San Clemente, CA 92672

The Ocean Conservancy
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Washington, DC 20036

The Wilderness Society
900 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

General Ocean, Coastal Peoples, Aquarium Fish:
Ocean Voice International
Box 37026
3332 McCarthy Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1B 7B2
Canada

General Ocean, Dolphins, Whales, Turtles:
Cousteau Society
2104 Pickwick Lane
Alexandria, VA 22307

Conservation International
2501 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Defenders of Wildlife
1244 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

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300 Broadway, Ste. 28
San Francisco, CA 94133-3312
Jean-Michel Cousteau Institute
1933 Cliff Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Marine Conservation Biology Institute
Suite 210
600 Pennsylvania Ave SE
Washington DC 20003004344

National Wildlife Federation
1400 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

General Ocean, Fisheries:
Environmental Defense Fund
257 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010

General Oceans, Government:
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
P.O. Box 500368
Marathon, Florida 33050

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Ocean Service
Public Affairs Department
1305 East-West Hwy.
Station 13519
Silver Spring, MD 20910

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
United States Department of the Interior
FIU. OE 165 University Park
Miami, Florida 33199

South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

United States Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 22092

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Information Center
PM-211B
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Washington, DC 20460

World Conservation Union (IUCN)
Rue Mauverney 28
CH 1196 Gland, Switzerland

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Mangroves:
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Ste. 321
Seattle, WA 98103

Marine Activities, Resources, and Education:
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University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Pollution, Pharmaceuticals:
Coral Reef Research Foundation
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Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Rainforests, Forests, Coastal People:
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San Francisco, CA 94104

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_____ Yes, I want to join the E-mail Activists List to stay informed.
My email is:_________________________________________________

_____ Yes, I want to volunteer to help Reef Relief. Indicate area of interest: (Reef World docent Key West, Capt. Roberts docent Bahamas, education, marine projects, special events). I have a special skill:
________________________________________________________________________________________

Name _______________________________________________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip ___________________________________________ Telephone________________________

Mail to Reef Relief, P.O. Box 430, Key West, Fl. 33041.
Credit card via telephone (305) 294-3100. Fax (305) 293-9515.
Visit our website at www.reefrelief.org
Chapter 14 Coral Reefs. 2 Corals

Corals are _____, a phylum of animals characterized by the presence of _____ on their tentacles. These _____ are used to capture prey primarily, but can also be defensive. The soft _____ is enclosed in a hard shell of calcium carbonate created by the coral. Photograph by Dr. Donald Keith Brain, lettuce leaf, and staghorn would be a few of the corals seen in the Flower Gardens Coral Reef off the Galveston, Texas Coast.

22. 23 Other Organisms that Contribute to Reef Structure Besides Stony Corals

Coralline algae (also produce calcium carbonate). Soft corals such as sea whips and sea fans (gorgonians) (produce a soft protein). Other cnidarians such as hydrozoans or anemones.

Sponges. 24.